

## George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

### To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE

Cambridge Camp, July 18, 1775.

Sir: You will please to accept my sincere Acknowledgements for your favor delivered me by Genl. Greene on my appointment to the Chief Command of the American Army. The Voluntary Choice of Freemen, contending in the great Cause of civil Liberty, and the concurring Approbation of the wise and good, at the same Time that they confer the highest Honor upon the object of their choice, demand the utmost Energy and Exertion of my poor Abilities; Such as they are, my Country has, and shall at all Times command them. Allow me now, Sir, to express my warmest Wishes for your Health and Happiness, and to assure you that I am etc.

### To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

Cambridge Camp, July 23, 1775.

Sir: I have had an application made to me this Day, by the several Captains of Colo. Phinney's Regiments from Casco Bay; they represent that their Men inlisted and have marched down upon a Promise, that they should receive 40/ Advance and Billeting Money at 8d p Day; that under this Expectation they left their Family's destitute, and have detain'd the Teamsters to carry back their Money: They have met with some disappointments arising from the Situation of the Assembly, which has raised an unhappy Spirit in the Regiments and requires immediate attention. You will therefore Please to lay the Matter before the General Court, with my Request, that proper Steps may be taken to satisfy

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them, as I have engaged that upon their Passing Muster, they shall receive the usual and legal Allowance. I have the Honor to be etc.

### **To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE**

Camp at Cambridge, July 26, 1775.

Sir: Yesterday I had an Account that three Men of War and Nine Transports had Sail'd out of Boston and in Evening I received a Note the Copy whereof is inclosed. The great Distress they are in at Boston for fresh Provisions makes it extreamly probable they may make some depridations along the Coasts; I have therefore thought it Proper to give you the earliest Notice, that the owners of those Islands and the Inhabitants along the Coasts, may take the necessary Precautions for the Security of their Property. At the same time I must add, that the Conduct of this Groves in getting into Boston again immediately, renders his intelligence very Suspicious as to their Destination; But their Sailing may be depended on: You will please to make use of this Intelligence under all its circumstances, as you shall judge most conducive to the Public good. And believe me to be, etc.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, July 29, 1775.

Sir: I have this Moment received a Letter from Chelsea of which the inclosed is an Extract. As the Inhabitants are coming out, in a different manner than proposed by your Assembly to the Select Men of the Town of Boston, I have not delayed a moments Time in giving you the earliest information of it; and request, that you may take the Matter into Consideration and determine what is proper to be done upon the Occasion. If you think it prudent to receive them in this Manner; Query, whether it may not be proper to appoint some person to attend the movement. I am in haste and with great respect, Sir etc.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Camp at Cambridge, July 31, 1775.

Sir: I have considered the Application made me yesterday from the General Court, with all the attention due to the Situation of the People, in whose behalf it is made, and the Respect due to such a Recommendation. Upon referring to my Instructions and Consulting with those Members of Congress who are Present, as well as the General Officers, they all agree that it would not be consistent with my Duty to detach any Part of the Army now here on any Particular Provincial Service. It has been debated in Congress and Settled, that the Militia, or other Internal Strength of each Province, is to be applied for Defence against those Small and Particular Depredations which were to be expected, and to which they were Supposed to be competent.<sup>47</sup> This will appear the more Proper, when it is considered that every Town and, indeed, every Part of our Sea Coast, which is exposed to these Depredations, would have an equal claim upon this Army; It is the Misfortune of our Situation which exposes us to these Ravages, against which, in my Judgement, no such Temporary Relief would possibly secure us. The great advantage the Enemy has, of Transporting Troops, by being Master of the Sea, will enable them to harrass us by Diversions of this kinds; and should we be tempted to pursue them upon every Alarm; The Army must either be so weaken'd as to expose it to Destruction, or a great part of the Coast be still left unprotected. Nor, indeed, does it appear to me, that such a pursuit would be attended with the least Effect; The first Notice

47. The Massachusetts Legislature was often referred to as the general court. The resolve requesting Washington to detach troops to protect the eastern coast of the colony is dated July 29 and, in the writing of Horatio Gates, exists in copy form in the *Journals of the Continental Congress*, to whom it was inclosed in Washington's letter of August 4.

of such an Incursion would be its actual Execution; and long before any Troops could reach the Scene of Action, the Enemy would have an Opportunity to accomplish their purpose and retire. It would give me great pleasure to have it in my power, to extend Protection and Safety to every Individual; but the wisdom of the General Court will

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anticipate me in the necessity of conducting our Operations on a General and impartial Scale, so as to exclude any first cause of Complaint and Jealousy.<sup>48</sup>

I beg, Sir, you will do me the Honor to Communicate these Sentiments to the General Court, and to apologize for my involuntary Delay. As we were alm'd this Morning by the Enemy, and my Time taken up with giving the necessary Directions.

I shall be happy in every Opportunity of showing my very great Respect and Regard for the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, and am, Sir,

48. This letter may not have satisfied the general court, for the council (August 2) ordered Mr. Greenleaf, Mr. Winthrop, and Mr. Palmer to wait upon the General and “to request him to inform this Board of the extent of the powers delegated to him by the Honorable Continental Congress.”— *Ford*.

### **To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

August 4, 1775.

Sir: I am favored with yours of the 31st July, informing me, that the New Levies<sup>56</sup> are coming forward with all expedition; As the Enemy has lain much longer inactive than I expected, I hope they will arrive in Time to give us their Assistance.

My last Letter from the Honble. Continental Congress, recommends my procuring from the Colonies of Rhode Island and Connecticut, a Quantity of Tow Cloth, for the Purpose of making of Indian or Hunting Shirts for the Men, many of whom are destitute of Cloathing. A Pattern is herewith sent you; and I must request you, to give the necessary Directions throughout your Government, that all the Cloth of the above kind may be bought up for this Use, and suitable Persons set to work to make it up, As soon as any Number is made, worth the Conveyance, you will please to direct them to be forwarded. It is design'd as a Species of Uniform, both cheap and Convenient.

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We have had no transactions of any Consequence in either Camp since my last, but what are in the Public Papers and related with tolerable Accuracy. I am now, Sir, in strict Confidence, to acquaint you that our Necessities, in the Article of Powder and Lead, are so great, as to require an immediate Supply. I must earnestly intreat you to fall upon some Measures to forward to us every ounce in the Province which can possibly be spared. It is not within the Propriety of such a Correspondence to say what I might upon this Subject; It is sufficient that the Case Calls loudly for the warmest and most strenuous Exertions of every Friend to his Country, and does not admit of the least Delay; No Quantity however small is beneath Notice and should any Arrive I beg it may be forwarded to us as fast as Possible.

The Express having left his Horse at Hartford, is under the Necessity of going that way. I am &c.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Head Quarters, August 5, 1775.

Sir: The bearer Col. Baldwin has this Morning reported, that among others out of Boston the Barrack Master's Wife came yesterday, and is now detained at Malden. As there may be Inconveniencies from Persons being suffered indiscriminately to go thro' the Country many of whom are undoubtedly disaffected to the Public Interest, I have caused a Court of Inquiry to set upon several; but the Business multiplies so fast, and we are so much Strangers to the Characters and Conduct of many, that I would wish to put it on some more proper Footing; especially as it takes several Field Officers every Day from their Duty. You will please Sir, to lay the Matter before the Genl. Court, that they may either appoint some proper Persons more competent to this Business, or take such other Steps as shall appear to them likely to remedy the Mischief; Col. Baldwin is referred to the General Court for Directions respecting Mrs. Goldthwaite. I have the Honor to be, Sir,

56. Fourteen hundred new troops ordered raised by the Connecticut Legislature.

**To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Head Quarters, August 7, 1775.

Sir: By the General Return made me for last Week, I find there are great Numbers of Soldiers and noncommissioned Officers who absent themselves from Duty, the greatest part of which, I have reason to believe are at their respective homes in different Parts of the Country; some employed by their Officers on their Farms and others draw in Pay from the Public, while they are working on their own Plantations or for Hire; My utmost Exertions have not been able to prevent this base and pernicious Conduct, I must therefore beg the Assistance of the General Court, to cooperate with me in such Measures as may remedy this Mischief; I am of opinion it might be done either wholly or in Part by the Committee's in the several Towns, making strict and impartial Inquiry of such as are found absent from the Army, upon what account they have left it by whose leave and for what Time; to require such as have no Impediment of Sickness or other good Reason to return to their Duty immediately, or in case of failure, to send an Account of their Names, the Company and Regiment to which they belong, to me as soon as possible, that I may be able to make Examples of such Delinquents.

I need not enlarge upon the ruinous Consequences of suffering such infamous Deserters and Defrauders of the Public, to go unnoticed or unpunished; nor use any

Arguments to induce the General Court to give it immediate attention:—the Necessity of the case does not permit me to doubt the continued Exertions of that Zeal which has distinguished the General Court, upon less important Occasions. I have the Honor to be, etc.

P. S the inclosed respects a Prisoner sent up from Prospect Hill, who is sent herewith under Guard for Examination of the Comtee. appointed for that Purpose.

**To THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE**

Camp at Cambridge, August 8, 1775.

Gentn: It must give great concern to any Considerate Mind, that, when this whole Continent, at a vast Expense of Blood and Treasure, is endeavouring to Establish Liberties on the most secure and Solid Foundations, not only by a laudable Opposition of Force to Force, but denying itself the usual advantages of Trade; there are men among us so basely sordid as to Counteract all our Exertions, for the sake of a little Gain. You cannot but have heard that the Distresses of the Ministerial Troops, for fresh Provisions and many other Necessaries, at Boston, were very great; It is a Policy, Justifiable by all the Laws of War, to endeavour to increase them; Desertions, Discouragement, and a Dissatisfaction with the Service, besides weakening their strength, are some of the Natural Consequences of such a Situation; and, if continued, might afford the fairest Hope of Success, without further Effusion of human Blood. A vessel cleared lately out of New York for St. Croix, with fresh Provisions and other Articles, has just gone into Boston, instead of pursuing her Voyage to the West Indies; I have endeavoured to discover the Name of the Captain or Owner, but, as yet, without success; The Owner (it is said) went to St. Croix before the Vessel, from which and her late arrival, I make no doubt you will be able to discover and expose the Villain. And, if you could fall upon some effectual Measures, to prevent the

like in future, it would be doing a Signal Service to our Common Country.<sup>74</sup>

I have been endeavouring, by every means in my Power, to discover the future Intentions of our Enemy here<sup>75</sup> I find a General Idea prevailing thro' the Army and in the Town of Boston, that the Troops are soon to leave the Town and go to some other Part of the

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Continent. New York is the Place generally mentioned as their Destination. I should think a Rumour or Suggestion of this kind worthy of very little Notice, if it was not confirmed by some corresponding Circumstances. But a four Weeks total Inactivity, with all their Reinforcements arrived and recruited; the daily Diminution, by Desertions, Sickness and small Skirmishes, induce an Opinion, that any Effort they propose to make, will be directed elsewhere.

I thought it proper just to hint to you what is probably intended; you will then consider what Regard is to be paid to it, and what steps will be proper for you to take, if any. I am, with great Respect & Regard, etc.

74. The New York Legislature referred the matter to a committee, and on August 25 Johan Chr. Drewidz was arrested on suspicion.

75. In Washington's "Accounts" in the *Washington Papers*, there is the following entry: "1775, July 15. To 333# Dollars given to — to induce him to go into the Town of Boston; to establish a secret correspondence for the purpose of conveying intelligence of the Enemys movements and designs."

### **To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

August 9, 1775.

Sir: From some late Intelligence out of Boston and sundry corroborating Circumstances, there is great Reason to suspect that the Ministerial Troops intend, either to make a Diversion to the Southward, or wholly to remove; If they should do either, it is most Probable New York is the Place of their Destination, I therefore think it most advisable that the Troops of your Colony, who have not yet Marched, or may easily be recalled, should wait further Orders; You will therefore Sir, be pleased to give the Necessary Directions for the purpose as soon as Possible.

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No occurrences in the Camp of any Consequence since I had the pleasure of addressing you last. I am with due Regard &c.

### **To THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE**

Camp at Cambridge, August 10, 1775.

Sir: Your favor of the 2d Inst. is duly received, but it is out of my power to Comply with the Request it contains, of forwarding Commissions. All that I have yet received from the Honble. Continental Congress are far short of the Number required in this Army; for which Reason when at New York and by Letter from this I directed General Schuyler to apply to the Congress at Philadelphia for those of his Department as the Shortest and easiest Mode; To which I must also now refer you.

We have had no Occurrence in the Camp for several Days worthy Notice;—but by some Advices from Boston and several Concurring Circumstances, we have great Reason to Suspect a Part or the whole of the Ministerial Troops are about to remove; New York is the Place generally talk'd of as their Destination, I give you the Intelligence as it came to me, but do not vouch for its Authenticity.

I am with the most respectful Regards to yourself and the Body over whom you preside, Sir, Yours, etc.

### **To THE COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Camp at Cambridge, August 11, 1775.

I have considered the papers you left with me Yesterday; those of which relate to Jones,<sup>79</sup> shew him to be a malignant and inveterate Enemy to his Country, and I trust he will meet with his Deserts, but I have such various and important Matters requiring my constant

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attention, that I must beg leave to refer him and all others under similar Circumstances to the Authority of the Province for Punishment and safe Custody.

The payment of the Troops is of such indispensable Necessity, that I must endeavour to use those Powers committed to me by the Honble. Congress, to remove this cause of Complaint: I propose to direct the New Paymaster to commence his Payments from the 1st August and hereafter continue them Monthly; I have consider'd that there are few if any Men who have not served Two Months and tho' some have received their Advance twice, it cannot be supposed there are many who have had it. The two Months Service will then be set against the double advance, and if a strict Scrutiny is immediately made, which I would recommend, the Accounts may be settled to that time, the Delinquents probably be detected and in the end justice be done both to the Province and the Men.

If any Embezzlements have been made by the officers, they will stand accountable to the Public, but at all Events the Soldiers are entitled to and must have their Pay if any service is expected from them. The Shirts, Shoes, Breeches and Stockings, Provided by the Province can be taken on the Continental Account: but I apprehend there will not be the same Necessity to provide Coats; the Continental Congress having ordered Hunting Shirts, as an outside Dress and warm waistcoats under will be Cheaper and more convenient. As to the Expedition proposed

79. Ichabod Jones.

against Nova Scotia by the Inhabitants of Machias, I cannot but applaud their Spirit and Zeal; but, after considering the Reasons offered for it, there are Several objections occur, which seem to me unanswerable.<sup>80</sup> I apprehend such an Enterprize inconsistent with the General Principal upon which the Colonies have proceeded. That Province has not acceded, it is true, to the Measures of Congress; and, therefore, they have been excluded from all Commercial Intercourse with the other Colonies; But they have not Commenced Hostilities against them, nor are any to be apprehended. To attack them,

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therefore, is a Measure of Conquest, rather than Defence; and may be attended with very dangerous Consequences. It might, perhaps, be easy, with the Force proposed, to make an Incursion into the Province and overawe those of the Inhabitants who are Inimical to our cause; and, for a short time prevent the Supplying the Enemy with Provisions: but the same Force must Continue to produce any lasting Effects. As to the furnishing Vessels of Force, you, Gentn. will anticipate me, in pointing out our weakness and the Enemy's Strength at Sea. There would be great Danger that, with the best preparation we could make, they would fall an easy prey either to the Men of War on that Station, or some who would be detach'd from Boston. I have been thus particular, to satisfy any Gentlemen of the Court who should incline to adopt the Measure, I could offer many other Reasons against, some of which, I doubt not, will suggest themselves to the Honble. Board.—But it is unnecessary to enumerate them when our Situation as to Ammunition, absolutely forbids our sending a single ounce out of the Camp at Present. I am, Gentn., &c.<sup>81</sup>

80. Colonel Thompson had proposed to raise a force of 1,000 men, and a fleet of four armed vessels and eight transports; to proceed to Windsor, captivate the Tories, make all the proselytes possible; and then proceed to Halifax and destroy the King's dockyard, if thought proper.— *Ford*.

81. The letter sent, dated Aug. 12, 1775, in the writing of Joseph Reed, is in the archives of the American Antiquarian Society.

### To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

Cambridge Head Quarters, August 14, 1775.

Sir: His Excellency being obliged to attend some Business in the Lines, has directed me to acquaint you and the Honble. Court, that he has received an Answer from Genl. Gage which has determined him to order the officers now at Watertown, together with those from Cape Ann, to be confined in Northampton Goal. Genl. Gage is resolved to know no distinction of Rank among our Prisoners in his Hands, which obliges Genl.

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Washington (very contrary to his disposition) to observe the same Rule of Treatment to those Gentlemen, to whom it may be proper to explain the Reasons of a Conduct, which otherwise may appear harsh and cruel.—The Common Men, the General Court will order to such Places as they think proper. I have by the Generals direction also inclosed you the Letter from Cape Ann;—he would gladly give them the desired Assistance; but you are no Strangers to the State of our Ammunition. We have Reason to expect some Speedy Supplies, and when any can be spared from the Necessary use of the Army with propriety, it will doubtless be done; In the mean Time, his Excellency refers them to the General Court for the Direction and Advice they Request. I have the Honor, etc., Joseph Reed.

### **To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

Camp at Cambridge, August 14, 1775.

Sir: Your Favor's of the 7th, 8th and 12th Inst. are all received. The Detention of the New Raised Levies has happily coincided with my Intentions respecting them. In the present uncertainty I think it best they should Continue where they are and I hope their Officers will be Assiduous in disciplining and improving them in the use of their Arms.

Upon the Subject of Powder I am at a Loss what to say—our Necessities are so great and it is of such Importance that this Army should have a full Supply, that nothing but the most urgent and pressing Exigence could make it proper to detain any on its way—I have been informed that 15 Hhds were lately landed at New York and that further Supplies were daily expected both there and at Connecticut; Should there be any Arrivals, I beg no time may be lost in forwarding this from Hartford and what can be spared from the necessary Colony Stock. Indeed at present I should choose you to forward one of these Waggons and the other may remain where it is till we see the Issue of our Expectations on this Head. The Removal from Boston I consider as very precarious, by no Means deserving to have so much Stress laid on it. We begin to feel a Scarcity of Lead and as I do not learn that we are to expect any from the Southward. I have concluded that a Part of the Stock found at

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Ticonderoga should be brought down and for this Purpose have wrote to Genl. Schuyler. I am not sufficiently Master of the Geography of the Country to know the easiest Mode of Conveyance;

but from the Time in which Letters have come thro' your Hands, I apprehend thro' Connecticut must be the best and most expeditious. You will therefore be pleased to give us your Assistance, and take the Direction of this Matter, into your own Hands to which I have not the least doubt, you will attend, as well to the Expence, as other Circumstances conducive to the Public Service.

Nothing new in the Camp for several days past, five Deserters have come in within these 48 Hours, but they bring no Intelligence of any Consequence. Since writing the above I have been informed there is a Lead Mine in your Colony which may be work'd to Advantage. Cut off from all foreign Supplies every internal Resource is worthy of attention and I make no doubt if my Information is just some proper Steps may be taken to hire this to the Public Advantage. I am Sir &c.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

August 23, 1775.

Sir: In a Conference with which I was lately honored from the General Court, I was informed that a Quantity of Shirts, Breeches, Stockings and Shoes had been provided by the Committee of Supplies; As there are Numbers of the Army destitute of these Articles. I should be glad the General Court would order them to be delivered to the Quarter Master General and to hasten those which are in Hand. He has orders to receive them on the Continental Account. I am Sir &ca.

### **To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

Camp at Cambridge, August 23, 1775.

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Sir: Yesterday I received advice from Boston, that a Number of Transports have Sailed on a Second Expedition for fresh Provisions; As they met with such Success before, it is probable they may pursue the same Course, only Advancing farther; We think Montawck Point on Long Island, a very probable Place of their Landing; I have therefore thought it best to give you the earliest Intelligence; But I do not mean to confine your Attention or Vigilance to that Place; you will please to extend your Views as far as the Mischief may be probably intended.

We have no Transactions of Sufficient Consequence in the Camp to make a Part of a Letter. I am Sir, etc.

P.S. You will please to let me know in your next, what Progress you make with the Hunting Shirts.

### **To THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE**

Camp at Cambridge, August 30, 1775.

Sir: Your favor of the 21<sup>st</sup> Instant is duly received, inclosing Mr. Carters Information of the Capture of the Charming Sally; which from the Circumstances attending it, was undoubtedly collusive. I have received Advice that another Vessel belonging to one White at Marblehead; whose ostensible Voyage was to Casco Bay, was carried in soon after. Such Instances of Avarice at such a time and in such a Cause, call for a Severe Scrutiny and exemplary Punishment.

Mr. Livingston and some other Gentlemen from your City, brought us the acceptable News of the safe Arrival of a large Quantity of Powder and 500 stand of Arms. Our Situation is such, as requires your immediate Assistance and Supply

in that Article. We have lately taken Possession of a Hill considerably advanced towards the Enemy, but our Poverty prevents our availing ourselves of any Advantage of Situation.

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I must therefore most earnestly intreat, that Measures may be taken to forward to this Camp, in the most safe and expeditious Manner whatever Amunition can be spared from the immediate and Necessary Defence of the Province. The Value, of whatever may be sent in Consequence of this Request, will be paid by orders from hence when Delivered, or negotiated with the Honble. Continental Congress at Philadelphia, as may be agreed with the proprietors; I only request that no time may be lost thro' any such Difficulties, as our Situation is so Critical and the Exigence so great. The Mode of Conveyance I must leave with the Provincial Congress, or the Committee of the City; I doubt not they will take every Precaution to make it safe and Expeditious. I have the Honor to be Sir, etc.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

August 29, 1775.

Gentn.: The Quarter Master General of the Army has represented to me that notwithstanding he has offered 2/ pr Foot for Fire Wood, 2/1½ pr Bushel for Oats, ¾ pr Ct for Hay, he cannot procure those Articles for the use of the Army. From the information I have received, I have great Reason to believe, that this is an Artificial Scarcity, partly created by some persons who are monopolizing those Articles, in order to advance the Price and partly by the Possessors of them in the Neighbourhood of the Camp, who keep them in Order to profit by our Distress. As such a Combination must be attended with fatal Consequences both to the Country and Army, I cannot doubt the Interposition of your Honors to provide some Speedy and effectual Remedy; That which is usual and Customary in such Cases, is to fix the Prices to the Several Articles; bearing a Proportion to what is the Ordinary Rate, and if Persons will not Comply with a reasonable Tariff, but still refuse to furnish such Necessary Articles, the great Law of Self Preservation must authorize us to compel them. This or any other Regulations, which your knowledge of the People and Zeal for the Service shall

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induce you to make, will I doubt not remove the Mischief at present, and prevent it in future. If you should at the same Time extend your Views to other Articles besides those I have enumerated, I flatter myself it would have a very beneficial Effect. I am &c.

### **To CLARK & NIGHTINGALE**

Camp at Cambridge, August 31, 1775.

Gentn: Hearing that you have imported a Quantity of Powder Lead and Small Arms, I have Dispatched Captain Baylor<sup>23</sup> one of my Aids de Camp to treat with you for it; whatever Engagement he shall enter into for the whole or any Part, I will Confirm; And upon Delivery to him, your Bills drawn on me for the Price agreed on, shall be honored on the Shortest Notice. I am Gentn. Your etc.

23. Capt. George Baylor.

### **To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE**

Camp at Cambridge, August 31, 1775.

Sir: Last night I received Information, that Messrs. Clark and Nightingale of Providence had imported a Quantity of Gun Powder, Lead and 500 Stand of Arms; upon which I have dispatch'd Capt. Baylor one of my Aids de Camp to treat with those Gentlemen for the whole Importation if not otherwise disposed of; I have directed him to wait on you immediately on his Arrival and must beg the Favor of your Advice and Assistance both in negotiating the Purchase, and transporting it hither, in the cheapest safest and most expeditious Manner; I flatter myself those Gentn. will not take an undue advantage of the Distresses of their Country, so as to exact an unreasonable Price; and that a due Regard will be had to the very particular Necessities of this Army, so as to prevent as far as Possible, any Part of this Supply being diverted to other uses.—As I have the most perfect Confidence in your Attachment and Zeal for the Public Interest, I am persuaded

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you will use your utmost Influence to give Effect to Capt. Baylors Commission; To him I must beg leave to refer you for the News of the Camp. In your next, you will please to inform me, what Progress you make with the Hunting Shirts. With much Respect and Esteem, Sir Your &ca.

### **To MAJOR CHRISTOPHER FRENCH**

Camp at Cambridge, August 31, 1775.

Sir: I duly received your Letter of the 15th instant, with the Inclosures, which shall be forwarded into Boston, agreeable to your request.

I understand the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, have directed an Escort with you to this Camp. The Accommodations, as well as many other Reasons, would make your Residence here extremely inconvenient, I have therefore directed that it be changed to Hartford. To this Effect I have wrote to the Committee there, who will take care that suitable Provision shall be made for you and your Companions, and shew you every civility, consistent with their Duty, and the Interest of the Public. Should Governor Trumbull think proper to make any Alteration of your Residence, he is impowered so to do, and I make no Doubt of your Acquiescence. I am Sir Your &c.<sup>29</sup>

29. Major French, of the Twenty-third Foot, British Army, had been captured on his way to Boston. During his captivity he wrote many letters to Washington complaining of the treatment he received.

### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER**

Camp at Cambridge, September 2, 1775.

Sir: I have just received your Favour of the 29th Ult. by express.<sup>31</sup> I am very sensible that the Situation of the Inhabitants of Long-Island, as well as of all those on the Coast, exposes them greatly to the Ravages of the Enemy, and it is to be wished general

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Protection could be extended to them, consistent with the Prosecution of those great Plans, which have been adopted for the common Safety. This was early foreseen and the Danger provided for by a Resolution of Congress, That each Province should depend on it's own internal Strength against these Incursions, the Prejudice arising from them, even if successful, not being equal to that of seperating the Army into a Number of small Detachments, who would be harrassed in fruitless Marches and Counter-Marches, after an Enemy, whose Conveyance by Shipping is so advantageous that they might keep the whole Coast in constant Alarm, without our being able perhaps at any Time, to give them vigorous Opposition. Upon this Principle I have invariably rejected every Application made me here, to keep any Detachments on the Coast for these Purposes. I should, therefore most probably have thought

31. Wooster's Connecticut regiment, which had been stationed in Harlem, N.Y., had later gone over to Long Island, N.Y., at the request of the New York Provincial Congress, to protect the inhabitants of that quarter from the British expeditions from Boston to seize island cattle and other provisions. Three companies had been raised on Long Island as a part of the regiments voted by the New York Congress, which were placed on the Continental establishment. General Schuyler had ordered these companies to the northward. Wooster wrote to the Commander in Chief (August 29): "The inhabitants here think that had General Schuyler known their very exposed situation he would not have ordered the companies away. The New York Congress suppose they have no right to counteract his orders. They might, indeed, have sent to him, and received an answer in season; but they are so refined in their policy, have so many private views to answer, and take such infinite pains to keep out of the plain path, conscious perhaps of their own superior wisdom, that they do nothing like other people." The letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

it my Duty, to have ordered the three Companies mentioned in your Letter to have joined your Army, to act in the general Service, had they not been under Command from General Schuyler to join him, but as it is I can by no Means interfere. He is engaged in a Service of

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the greatest Importance to the whole Continent, his Strength and appointments far short of his Expectations, and to give any counter Orders may not only defeat his whole Plan; but must make me responsible to the Public for the Failure. Instead, therefore, of their further Stay, I would have them march immediately. I fear the Delay of the ten Days may have very bad Effects, as by my last Advices from Ticonderoga, General Schuyler was to march in a few Days for Canada; and it is highly probable he may depend upon these Companies to occupy the Posts of Communication, which otherwise he must weaken his Army to do. No provincial Congress can with any Propriety, interfere in the Disposition of Troops on the continental Establishment, much less controul the Orders of any General Officer, so that in this Instance the Congress at New York have judged properly, in declining to counteract General Schuyler's Orders. I wish I could extend my Approbation equally to the whole Line of their Conduct.

Before you receive this Letter, you will most probably be able to judge how far your Continuance on Long-Island will be farther necessary. If the Fleet which last sailed was destined for those Coasts, it must be arrived. If it is not, it is certainly gone to the Eastward, and your present Station is no longer necessary. The Importance of preserving the Communication of the North River and many other Reasons induce me to wish you were returned to your former Post. The late Transactions at New York, furnish additional Reasons for your being as near that City, as is consistent with the Discipline and Convenience of your Troops. Your next, therefore, I flatter myself will inform me of your having resumed your former Station. I am, Sis', etc.<sup>32</sup>

32. In receiving this letter Wooster returned immediately to Harlem, N.Y., and embarked for Albany, N.Y. September 2 Washington empowered Nathaniel Tracy, of Newburyport, Mass., to impress as many vessels as needed to transport troops on a secret expedition, which was to be against Canada.

## To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

## Library of Congress

Camp at Cambridge, September 4, 1775.

Gentn: Col. Sergeant<sup>39</sup> has applied to me for his Commission in the Continental Army, and I have no objection to Comply with his request, but his not having received one under the Legislature of this Province; But as I do not mean to confine myself to Forms, if he has been considered by this Government, as an Officer authorised to Raise a Regiment and would have received a Commission on the Provincial Establishment, and you will signify this to me for my Government and Security, I shall make no Difficulty to grant a Commission to him, on the same Terms as are prescribed to the other officers. I am Gentn. most Respectfully

39. Paul Dudley Sargent.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, September 28, 1775.

Gentn: The Indian who accompanies Mr. Kirkland<sup>73</sup> is an Oneida Chief, of considerable Rank in his own Country; He has come on a Visit to the Camp, principally to satisfy his Curiosity; But as his Tribe has been very friendly to the United Colonies and his Report to his Nation, at his Return, have important Consequences to the public Interest, I have Studiously endeavour'd to make his Visit agreeable.

Having express'd an Inclination to pay his Respects to the General Court, I thought it proper to let them know who he was and upon what Errand he came; Not doubting, but your Honorable Board will join with me in shewing him all proper Civilities. I have directed a present to be prepared for him at his Return. I am Gentn., etc.

73. Rev. Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Oneida Indians.

### **To MAJOR CHRISTOPHER FRENCH**

## Library of Congress

Camp Cambridge, September 26, 1775.

Sir: Your Favor of the 18th instant, is now before me, as well as that from the Committee of Hartford, on the same Subject. When I compare the Treatment you have received, with that which has been shewn to those brave American Officers, who were taken fighting gallantly in Defence of the Liberties of their Country, I cannot help expressing some Surprize, that you should thus earnestly contest Points of mere Punctilio. The Appellation of Rebel, has been deemed sufficient to sanctify every Species of Cruelty to them, while the Ministerial Officers, the voluntary Instruments of an Avaricious and vindictive Ministry, claim, upon all Occasions, the Benefit of those Military Rules, which can only be binding, where they are mutual. We have shewn on our part the Strongest Disposition to observe them, during the present Contest; but I should illy support my Country's Honor, and my own Character, if I did not shew a proper Sense of their sufferings, by making

the condition of the Ministerial Officers, in some Degree, dependant on theirs.

My Disposition does not allow me, to follow the unworthy Example set me by General Gage, to its fullest Extent; You possess all the essential comforts of Life, why would you press for Indulgence of a ceremonious Kind, which gives general Offence.

I have looked over all the Papers sent me from Philadelphia, I find nothing in them upon the present Subject. Nor do I know, whether the Liberty of wearing your Swords was given or taken. But I flatter myself, when you come to consider all circumstances, you will save me the Trouble of giving any positive Direction. You will easily conceive, how much more grateful a compliance with the wishes of the People (among whom your Residence may be longer than you expect) will appear, when it is the result of your own Prudence and Good sense, rather than a Determination from me; I therefore should be unwilling to deprive you of an Opportunity of Cultivating their Esteem, by so small

a Concession as this must be.

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As I suppose your several Letters to me have been communicated to each other, I cannot forbear considering your conduct, "in declaring in a high Tone, that had you joined your Regiment, you would have acted vigourously against this country and done all in your Power to reduce it," as a Deviation from that Line of Propriety and Prudence, which I should have expected to distinguish the conduct of so old and experienced an Officer. You being so intirely in our Power, may extinguish the resentment a generous and enlightened mind would otherwise feel, but I cannot commend the conduct which puts such a mind to the Trial, I am, Sir, etc.<sup>69</sup>

69. Major French and his attempt to force retention of the privileges to wear his sword while a prisoner of war were fair examples of the general attitude of the British officers toward the inhabitants. His presumption was impertinent, but he was probably ignorant of the fact. His exceptional statement he explained in his letter to Washington (October 9): "I was asked by Mr. Paine if I would not fight against the colonies if set at liberty, and I answered that I would, in which might have been included, that I would endeavour to reduce them, but I did not say so; and I must appeal to you, Sir, if the question need or should have been asked. The answer was obvious, and therefore it could only be asked with a design to have something to say. I told them, therefore, that I gloried in serving my king and country, and should always do so, and I glory even in repeating it to you. I am convinced, Sir, you will not think the worse of me for supporting my honor as a man, and a British officer, which, in all situations I am determined to do." Lee's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH SPENCER**

Head Quarters, September 26, 1775.

Sir: I have perused and consider'd a Petition or rather a remonstrance directed to you and signed by several Captains and Subalterns on the appointment of Mr. Huntington<sup>67</sup> to the Lieutenancy of Captain Chester's Company.

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The decent Representation of Officers or even of common Soldiers, through the Channel of their Colonel, or other superior Officers, I shall always encourage and attend to; but I must declare my Disapprobation of this Mode of associating and combining as subversive of all Subordination, Discipline and Order. Should the proper Officers refuse or neglect to receive their Complaints, an immediate application to their General Officer would be proper. Much as I disapprove the Mode of Opposition to this Gentleman, I disapprove the Opposition itself still more. To yield to it would in Effect surrender the Command of the Army, to those whose Duty it is, and whose Honour it ought to be, to obey. Commissions should be ever the Reward of Merit, not of Age, and I am determined never to put it out of the proper Power, to reward

67. Lieut. Ebenezer Huntington.

a deserving, active Officer, whatsoever may be his standing in the Army, or the Pretensions of those who have no other Merit than that of having been born or enlisted before him. In an Army so young as ours, the Claims arising from real Service are very few, and the accidental Circumstance of obtaining a Commission a Month or two sooner, can with no reasonable Person claim any superior Regard, or make such a scrutiny of any Consequence. This Army is supported by the whole Continent, the Establishment is intirely new. All provincial Customs, therefore, which are different in different Provinces, must be laid out of the Question. The Power which has established and pays this Army, has alone the right to judge who shall command in it, from the General to the Ensign. To put it into any other Hands would be a high Breach of my Trust, and would give Birth to such Factions, and Cabals, as must soon end in the Disolution of the Army, and the ruin of our Country. As no Objections are made to Mr. Huntington's Character, or any other Reason assigned, than his not rising by Gradation, I can make no alteration in his appointment. At the same Time, I declare, I shall upon all Occasions pay a proper

respect to long Service, and as far as lays in my Power give it all the Preference, which is consistent with the Wellfare of the Army and the Duties of my Station. I make no Doubt,

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therefore, when these and all other Officers, (who in such Cases are both Parties and Judges) divest themselves of Prejudice and Partiality, they will chearfully acquiesce in such appointments as are made, and manifest their sincere Attachment to their Country and the great Cause in which we are engaged, by a ready and hearty Obedience to all Orders and rules, which are judged necessary for the general Interest. I am, Sir, etc.

### **To THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

September 26, 1775.

Your Favor of the 18th Instant and one from Major French on the same Subject have come safely to Hand. From the General Character of this Gentleman, and the acknowledged Politeness and Attention of the Committee of Hartford to the Gentlemen intrusted to their Care, I flatter'd myself, their would have been a Mutual Emulation of Civility,

which would have resulted in the Ease and Convenience of both; I am extremely sorry to find it otherwise, And upon a Reperusal of former Letters and Papers, respecting these Gentlemen, cannot think there is any thing particular in their Situation, which can Challenge a Distinction. If the Circumstance of wearing their Swords had created no Dissatisfaction, I should not have interfered, considering it, in itself, as a Matter of Indifference; But, as it has become so, partly, perhaps, by the inadvertent Expressions which have dropt on this Occasion, I persuade myself, Major French, for the sake of his own Convenience and Ease, and to save me farther Trouble, will consider what is not essential to either his Comfort or Happiness, further than mere Opinion makes it so; on the other Hand, allow me to recommend a Gentleness, even to Forbearance, with Persons so intirely in our Power. We know not what the Chance of War may be; but, let it be what it will, the Duties of Humanity and Kindness will demand from us such a Treatment, as we should expect from others, the Case being reversed. I am, etc.

### **To CAPTAIN DANIEL MORGAN**

## Library of Congress

Camp at Cambridge, October 4, 1775.

Sir: I write you in Consequence of Information I have received that you and the Captains of the Rifle Companies on the Detachment against Quebec, claim an Exemption from the Command of all the Field Officers except Colonel Arnold. I understand this Claim is founded upon some Expressions of mine; but if you understood me in this Way, you are much mistaken in my Meaning. My Intention is and ever was that every Officer should command according to his Rank. To do otherwise, would subvert all military Order and authority, which, I am sure, you could not wish or expect. Now the Mistake is rectified, I trust you will exert yourself to support my Intentions, ever remembering that by the same Rule that you claim an independant Command and break in upon military Authority, others will do the same by you; and of Consequence the Expedition must terminate in Shame and Disgrace to yourselves and the Reproach and Detriment of your Country. To a man of

true Spirit and military Character farther Argument is unnecessary. I shall, therefore, recommend you to preserve the utmost Harmony among yourselves, to which a due subordination will much contribute and wishing you all Health and Success, I remain etc.<sup>10</sup>

10. The rifle companies were raised by an express order of the Continental Congress, and on this ground the captains had an impression that they were not to be commanded by officers in the provincial ranks. Benedict Arnold held a Continental commission.

### **To THE COMMITTEE OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

October 5, 1775.

Gentn: I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your favor of the 2d Inst.; informing me that the Ship Prince George Capt. Emms, from Bristol to Boston, with Flour for the Enemy, by a mistake of her Captain and the Spirited Conduct of some of the Inhabitants was now in your Possession.

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I cannot but consider this as a most Providential Event, the State of this Army being alone defective in that Article, it would therefore highly Conduce to the Public Interest and to our relief, to forward it hither as soon as possible, which I apprehend may be done with Safety and ease by Water as far as Salem or Marblehead; in the mean time I will communicate the Matter

to the Continental Congress for their Direction: as to the Compensation to be made the Captors and the determination of what Property arises by the Capture, and in whom Vested.

What ever Expenses may accrue in Complying with the above Request and whatever risque may be run by the Carriage by Water I will engage; but as I do not learn there are any of the Enemy's Ships on the Coast, I hope the Risque is very small. I am &c.

### **To THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Camp at Cambridge, October 5, 1775.

Gentn: By an Intelligent Person from Boston the 3d Inst. I am informed that a Fleet consisting of one 64, one 20 Gun Ship, 2 Sloops of 18 Guns, two Transports with 600 Men, were to sail from Boston as Yesterday, their Destination a profound secret; that they took on board 2 Mortars and 4 Howitzers with other Artillery, calculated for the Bombardment of a Town. I have thought proper to apprise every Considerable Town on the Coast of this Armament that they may be upon their guard.

Should I receive any further Account of their Destination, it shall be forwarded.<sup>26</sup>

The same Person also informs that an Express Sloop arrived 4 Days before from England at Boston, which she left the 8th of August. Genl. Gage and most of the officers who were at Lexington, are recalled and Sail this day, General Howe succeeds to the Command, 6 Ships of the Line and 2 Cutters under Sir Peter Dennis are coming out, Five

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Regiments and 1000 Marines may be expected at Boston in 3 or 4 Weeks; No prospect of Accommodation, but on the

26. This news, in practically these same words, was sent to most of the seacoast towns.

other Hand every appearance of the War being pushed with the utmost Vigour. I am Gentn. etc.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Head Quarters, October 6, 1775.

Gentn: On the 29th August I did myself the Honor of addressing you on the Complaint of the Quarter Master respecting Wood for the Army. The Recess of the House of Representatives prevented any Steps being taken upon it. I must now beg leave to recall your Attention to my Letter of that Date, as the Evil is increasing, and more alarming as the Winter approaches. Little or no Wood is brought in, and it is apprehended the Owners keep it back to impose an unreasonable Price.

The Communication at Winnisimet Ferry, which was opened for the Relief of the unhappy Sufferers at Boston, is now turned into a Convenience for the Enemy; a whole week has some times elapsed, without a Boat being permitted to come out, and there have been many Irregularities there, which the Distance of my other Engagements, have prevented my attending to; before I gave any order upon the Subject,

I thought proper to Communicate my Intentions to you, that if there were any Special Reasons against the proposed Alteration, you may have an opportunity of making me acquainted with them.

By an Estimate laid before me by the Quarter Master General, I find it will be impracticable, to provide sufficient Barracks for the Troops before the Season is too far advanced, without appropriating many of the Houses in and about Cambridge to this use;

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Many of the Inhabitants who had deserted them, are now returning under the protection of the Army. I feel a great Repugnance to exclude them from what is their own, but Necessity in this case I fear will supercede all other Considerations. I must beg the Genl. Court to Act upon it. I am etc.

### **To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

Camp at Cambridge, October 13, 1775.

Sir: Your favor of the 9th. Instant has been duly received; The Fleet mentioned in mine of the 6th Inst., has been standing N, N, E., so that we presume it is destined against some Town of this Province, or New Hampshire, or possibly gone to Quebec.

Our last Advices, were very favorable, from Colo. Arnold; by the 20th Inst. we expect he will be at Quebec, A Gentleman of Character from Canada assures me, he will meet with no opposition there.

I am sorry other Avocations will deprive me of the pleasure of seeing you in Camp at the proposed Conference, I hope upon some other occasion you will do us the favor of a Visit, I shall be happy in every opportunity to manifest my Respect and Regard for the Government of Connecticut.

No Occurrence of any Consequence in either Camp since my last.

In my last Letter from the Congress, it is mentioned, that the Armed

Vessels of Connecticut will be sent on a Special Service with which you are acquainted; In your next you will Please to inform me, whether they may be expected to proceed in that Enterprize. Two will proceed from hence with all Expedition. Govr. Cooke informs me he can give us no Assistance in it. I am etc.

### **To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE**

## Library of Congress

[Cambridge, October 13, 1775.]

Sir: I am favor'd with yours of the 10th and am sorry it so happened, that the proposed Scheme of Intercepting the Enemy's Ordnance Stores cannot have your Assistance. The Experience your Officers and Men have had, by an earlier attention to Sea Service, would have made them very acceptable on the proposed Enterprise.

The Fleet which Sailed out of Boston a few Days ago and of which I apprized you the 6th Instant, has been seen standing N, N, E. From which we suppose they are destined against some Town of this Province, or New Hampshire, or possibly to Quebec.

We have no Occurrence of any Consequence in the Camp since I had the Pleasure of Writing you last.

I find the Delegates did not expect to leave Philadelphia till the 6th. Instant, so that their Arrival here will be later than at first proposed. I expect the pleasure of seeing you shortly, and am etc.

### **To THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Camp at Cambridge, October 15, 1775.

Gentn: I was yesterday favored with yours of the 11th Inst., wherein the Necessities of the Town of Portsmouth and the Garrison there, for some Part of the late Capture of Flour are represented; Had I known their Situation I should have made the Application unnecessary, by directing Mr. Moylan on the Subject, They have my Chearful Consent, to take what is necessary, but perhaps somewhat less than 600 Barrels may Answer the present Exigence; As our mutual Wants are now known to each other, I shall leave it to you to reserve what Quantity, you think indispensably Necessary.

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I do not see any Impropriety in paying the Seamen their Wages, out of the Sales of some part of the Cargo and make no doubt it will be approved in the Settlement of this Affair.

With respect to the Transportation of it to Marblehead or Salem by Water, I apprehend it must depend upon Circumstances such as the Enemy being upon the Coast &c., of all

which Mr Moylan was directed to inform himself and then Act as should be best, The Expence of Land Carriage would be very Considerable and I wish to use all possible Oeconomy so as to be consistent with our Safety. You will Please to favor Mr Moylan with your Opinion on the Subject, to which he will pay a Suitable Regard. I am etc.

### **To COLONEL JOHN GLOVER AND STEPHEN MOYLAN**

Camp at Cambridge, October 16, 1775.

Gentlemn: Colonel Glover's Letter of the 13th Inst. came safe to Hand. Captain Broughton and Captain Sellman have their Orders and must be immediately dispatched. The Price you mention for Bread is monstrous; but there must be no Delay. If the Flour is not come in from Portsmouth, you must do as well as you can; but if it is, we hope, you need not submit to such Terms. Let the Agent take Care to reserve a suitable Quantity for the Vessels, when it does arrive. Captain Glover will have the seventh Vessel fitted out; but the General fears he is too young. He has agreed to be second in Command under Manley for a little Time. The Experience he will gain, will enable him to take the first Command afterwards with more Honour. I am, etc.

### **To MAJOR BENJAMIN TUPPER<sup>45</sup>**

Whereas Information has been given to me, that two Vessels, the one belonging to Holmes and the other to Coffin, both Persons of known Enmity to the United Colonies,<sup>46</sup> are now laying at Martha's Vineyard, intending to proceed to Boston with their Cargoes, for the Benefit and Refreshment of the ministerial Troops there. These are, therefore, to

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require you, to seize the said Vessels with their Cargoes, and secure them in the safest and nearest Port to this Camp

45. Tupper, who was of Fellows's Massachusetts regiment, was advanced to the rank of colonel and served throughout the war, being brevetted a brigadier general before his retirement.

46. Benjamin M. Holmes and John Coffin were, probably, the individuals meant.

for the use of the United Colonies; and all Persons, Friends of their Country and the Cause of America, are desired to aid and assist you in the said Enterprize, for which they shall be reasonably rewarded out of the said Vessels.

Given under my Hand at Head Quarters, Cambridge, October the twentieth, Annoq. Domini 1775.

**To MAJOR CHRISTOPHER FRENCH**

Camp Cambridge October 19, 1775.

Sir: Your Letter of the instant was duly received. Doctor Franklin the chairman of the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, is now in Camp, and when the necessary Attention to Matters of greater Importance will admit, I propose to make the proper Inquiries, and then will endeavour to settle the Matter in Question, in such a manner, as I hope will be final and Satisfactory. In the meantime, I must acquaint you, that those Gentlemen who came from Philadelphia, informed me, that the Liberty of Wearing your Swords was not made a Subject of Discussion, but passed wholly unnoticed, which induced me to say, I did not know whether the Liberty was given or taken. My Time and other Engagements does not admit my continuing this correspondence; but I shall have a real Pleasure in making your Situation as comfortable and convenient as my Duty will allow. I am Sir, etc.

**To THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE**

Camp at Cambridge, October 24, 1775.

Sir: Your Favor of the 12 Inst. I duly received and thank you for inclosing Captn. Thompson'48 Information; the Contents of the Deposition, now transmitted to you are of such a Nature, that I thought no Time should be lost, in giving you the earliest Notice of them. I am etc.

48. Captain Thompson, a sea captain of a ship from London, was subjected to an examination before the New York Congress. No copy of his information has been found in the *Washington Papers*.

**To THE COMMITTEE OF FALMOUTH**

Camp at Cambridge October 24, 1775.

Gentn: The Desolation and Misery, which Ministerial Vengeance had Planned, in Contempt of every Principle of Humanity, has been solately brought on the Town of Falmouth, I know not how Sufficiently to detest. Nor can my compassion for the General Suffering, be conceived beyond the true Measure of my Feelings. But my Readiness to relieve you, by complying with your Request, signified in your favor of the 21st Inst., is Circumscribed by my Inability; The immediate Necessities of the Army under my Command, require all the Powder and Ball that can be Collected with the utmost Industry and Trouble.<sup>50</sup> The Authority of my Station does not extend so far, as to empower me, to send a Detachment of Men down to your Assistance. Thus Circumstanced, I can only add my Wishes and Exhortations, that you may repel every future Attempt, to perpetrate the like

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50. On October 24 Washington entered into an agreement with John Fisk for a supply of powder, to be furnished on or before Apr. 1, 1776, at the rate of 4 shillings a pound for any quantity up to 20 tons.

Savage Cruelties.

I have given Liberty to several Officers, in Col. Phinney's Regiment, to Visit their Connections, which may now Stand in need of their presence and Assistance, by reason of this new exertion of Despotic Barbarity. I am, Gentn, etc.

### **To MAJOR CHRISTOPHER FRENCH**

Head Quarters, Cambridge, October 25, 1775.

Sir: I now set down to give a final Answer to your Application respecting your Swords. Dr Franklin confirms, what I before mentioned, that the Privilege claimed was no Part of the Stipulation made at Philadelphia, but passed without Discussion.

Having made Inquiry, I find the rule with regard to the Indulgence in Question, is, that Prisoners do not wear their Swords. I therefore cannot approve of it, more especially as it gives such general Dissatisfaction to the good People of the country.

To your other request, of removing to some Place where you can have the Benefit of attending public Worship in the Church of England, I have not the least Objection, provided the Place is approved by Governor Trumbull, to whom, in this Case, you will be pleased to apply.

Your Letters &ca. have been all sent into Boston and such as have been

sent out, forwarded. The Select Men, at the Instance of Col. Robinson, have applied to have Mr McDermot sent in, to which I have agreed, upon Condition that a Gentleman of

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Boston, most injuriously confined in Gaol, be permitted to come out. To which Proposal I have yet received no Answer.

I wish you all the Happiness consistent with your Situation and while the Inhabitants of America treat you with Humanity and Kindness, I trust you will make a Suitable Return. It is not grateful to me to hear the respectable citizens of any Town treated with Incivility or Contempt. I am sir, etc.

### **To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

Camp at Cambridge, October 29, 1775.

Sir: Since I had the Pleasure of Addressing you last, no material Occurrence has happened in our Camp.

Dy Governor Griswold was desirous of taking the Minutes of the Conference with the Delegates of the Continental Congress with him; but they were so lengthy the Time did not admit of it. As soon as they can be copied fair they shall be transmitted.

I was somewhat Surprized to find that in one of the Regiments lately from Connecticut, a Doctor Chiney<sup>56</sup> had been Commissioned as a Surgeon. As I am persuaded he must have obtained this Appointment by some Misrepresentation, I think it proper to apprise you of his Conduct and Behaviour last Summer being suspected of fraudulent Draughts upon the Commissary Store and other Malpractices, it was proposed to bring him to a Trial, which he evaded by requesting a Dismission which was granted him. After which I am very Credibly informed he returned to his Colony, where he has propogated the most infamous Reports of

56. Dr. Penuel Cheeney, surgeon's mate, of the Third Connecticut Regiment.

some of the General Officers. Reports tending to impress the Minds of the Soldiery and Country with prejudices, which would dissolve that Confidence which ought to subsist

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between Troops and their Officers. Since he has returned to Camp, he has renewed his Draughts upon the Stores, but being immediately detected, I have ordered him under Arrest, and hope Sufficient Evidence may be had to convict him, so as to rid the Army of him intirely.—But I beg leave to intimate to you, the Propriety of Observing some Caution in giving Commissions to Persons who have been discharged, before you are apprized of the Reasons of their leaving the Army.

I am glad to hear the Commissary General<sup>57</sup> is in a fair way of Recovery; I hope it will not be long before we have the Pleasure of seeing him in the Camp. I am Sir etc.

57. Col. Joseph Trumbull.

P.S. have you heard anything of the Lead proposed to be sent from Albany in August, allow me to call your attention to this important article.

### **To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE**

Camp at Cambridge, October 29, 1775.

Sir: Your Favor of the 25th Instant came safely to hand. Capt. Whipple's Voyage has been unfortunate, but it is not in our Power to Command Success, tho' it is always our duty to deserve it; I hope he will be more Successful in his intended Voyage, if it is proposed in consequence of the Direction of the Congress, I think it Proper you should apprise him, that two Schooners have Sail'd from hence to the Mouth of St. Lawrence River, upon the same Service Commanded by Capt. Broughton and Captain Sellman; The Signal which they have agreed on to distinguish each other and to be known to their Friends, is the Ensign up to the Main Topping Lift. I agree with

you that the Attachment of our Bermudian Bretheren ought to recommend them to the favorable Regard of their Friends of America, and I doubt not it will, I shall certainly take a proper opp'y to make their Case known to the Honble. Continental Congress.

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I shall be happy in every opportunity to shew the Esteem and Regard with which I am etc.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Camp at Cambridge, October 30, 1775.

Sir: At the Instance and request of the Committee of Cape Ann, I dispatch'd Major Mason to Survey and make a Report of such Works of Defence as were already constructed there and how far any New one might be Necessary. From his Observations and Account, I find that a Battery may be erected there to the great advantage, and Security of the Place; But the small Stock of Artillery, belonging to the Army prevents me from Supplying the Materials for this Purpose. I have therefore thought proper to acquaint you, with the Circumstances of the Case, that you may make the best Provision for this Necessity, and have also sent Major Mason<sup>60</sup> down to you, that particular Enquiry, if desired may be made; Be pleased to communicate this Information to your Honorable House. I am Sir, etc.

<sup>60</sup>. Maj. David Mason of Gridley's artillery.

### **To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

Camp at Cambridge, November 2, 1775.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the 30th Ult<sup>o</sup>. by Mr. Trumbull<sup>72</sup> I sincerely wish this Camp could furnish a good Engineer. The Commissary General<sup>73</sup> can inform you, how exceedingly Deficient the Army is of Gentlemen skill'd in that branch of Business, and that most of the Works which have been thrown up for the Defence of our Several Incampments, have been planned by a few of the Principal officers of this Army, assisted by Mr. Knox<sup>74</sup> a Gentleman of Worcester. could I afford you the desired Assistance, in this way, I should do it with Pleasure.

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Herewith you will receive a Copy of the proceedings held with the Committee of Congress from Philadelphia, it ought to have been sent sooner; but I am at present without a Secretary. Colo Reed having a call at home, left this on Sunday last. I heartily Congratulate you on the recovery of the Commissary General,

72. Probably Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

73. Col. Joseph Trumbull.

74. Brig. Gen. Henry Knox.

whose Return so soon as he can travel with Safety, is much wished for. I am etc.

### **To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE**

Camp at Cambridge, November 2, 1775.

Sir: I have your favor of the 20th Ultio. before me. Immediately upon receipt of it, I communicated the contents to the Dy Commissary (Mr Trumbull being Sick in Connecticut) as a business appertaining to his Department; but as Dep'y he wishes for the Direction of his Principal, to whom I could wish you to write, as he is at Lebanon and not expected back under three weeks.—his intention I know, was to make both Beef and Pork bring itself to this Place; but as that cannot be in the case you mention, there is no doubt of his readiness to take the Beef, if delivered here in Barrels at the Price other Beef in Barrels stand him in here.—perhaps (for an Encouragement)

more, to get it out of the reach of the Enemy.

I thank you for your order in favor of Mr. Bowen,<sup>75</sup> who I am informed after some trouble, got the Cannon wanted, somewhat more convenient. Herewith you will receive a Copy of

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the Proceedings of the Conference held at this Place with the Committee of Congress.  
Nothing new since my last. With much esteem etc.

**\*To JOSEPH TRUMBULL**

Camp at Cambridge, November 2, 1775.

Dr. Sir: The news of your recovery has given your friends a great deal of Joy. We had little hopes of seeing you again from some late Accts of your health. I have given Captn. Wadsworth a draft on the Treasury for 120,000 Dollars agreeable to your request, although the State of our Cash is by no means able to bear such a pull upon it. besides this, Mr

75. Ephraim Bowen, captain and agent for fitting out armed vessels at Plymouth, Mass. He was, later, a deputy quartermaster general.

Avery<sup>71</sup> on the 20th. Instr. got a Warrt. for 20, M Dollars and is now applying for Ten thousand more. So soon as you can travel with safety (and not before) I should be glad to see you at this Camp and am with sincere regard etc.

[C.S.L.]

71. Elisha Avery, deputy commissary general, Northern Department.

**To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, November 2, 1775.

Sir: I Promised the Gentlemen who did me the Honor to call upon me yesterday, by order of your House, that I would enquire of the Quarter Master General and let them know to day, what Quantity of Wood and Hay would be necessary to supply the Army thro' the

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Winter, I accordingly did so and desired Genl. Gates this morning to inform you, that it was his

(the Qur Master's) Opinion it would require ten thousand Cords of the first and two hundred Tons of the Latter to answer our demands; but the hurry in which we have been all day engaged, caused him to forget it, till a fresh Complaint brought it again to remembrance. When the Committee were here yesterday, I told them I did not believe that we had then more than four Days Stock of Wood before hand. I little thought that we had scarce four hours, and that different Regiments were upon the Point of cutting each others throats for a few Standing Locusts near their Encampments, to dress their victuals with. This however is the fact, and unless some expedient is adopted by your honorable Body to draw more Teams into the Service or the Qur M. Genl. empower'd to impress them, this Army, if their comes a Spell of Rainy or Cold weather, must inevitably disperse, the Consequence of which need no animadversion of Mine.

It has been matter of great grief to me to see so many Valuable able Plantations of Trees destroyed.—I endeavoured (whilst there appeared a Possibility of restraining it) to prevent the practice, but it is out of my power to do it, from Fences to Forrest Trees, and from Forrest Trees to fruit Trees, is a Natural advance to houses, which must next follow; this is not all, the distress of the Soldiers in the Article of Wood will I fear have an unhappy influence upon their enlisting again.

In short Sir, if I did not apprehend every evil that can result from the want of these two Capital Articles, wood especially I should not be so importunate. my anxiety on this head must plead my excuse; at the same time I assure you that with great respect and esteem, etc.

**To THE COMMITTEE OF FALMOUTH**

Cambridge, November 6, 1775.

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Sir: I received your favor of the 2d Inst., and am very sorry it is not in my power to Supply the necessities of the Town of Falmouth; I have referr'd the Gentleman who brought me your Letter, to the General Court of this Province, who I hope will fall upon some method for your Assistance, the arrival of the Cerberus Man of War is very alarming; I do not apprehend they will attempt to penetrate into the Country, as you seem to be afraid of; if they should Attempt to Land any of their Men, I would have the good People of the Country, by all means to make every possible opposition in their Power, for it will be much easier to prevent their making a Lodgment, than to force them from it, when they have got Possession.

I write by this Conveyance to Col. Phinney, who will give you every advice and Assistance in his Power. I Sincerely sympathize with the People in the distress they are drove to, but it is in such times, that they should exert themselves in the Noble Cause of Liberty and their Country. I am, Sir, &c.

### **To COLONEL EDMOND PHINNEY<sup>80</sup>**

Cambridge, November 6, 1775.

Sir: Having received a Letter from Mr Enoch Moody, Chairman of the Committee of Falmouth, that the Inhabitants of that Town are greatly alarmed by the Arrival of the Cerberus Man of War, and are under great Apprehension that some of the King's Troops will be landed there. It is my Desire that you raise all the Force you can, and give the Town every Assistance in your Power. The Difficulty of removing Troops after they have made a Lodgment or got Possession of a Place, is too obvious to be mentioned. You will, therefore, use every possible Method to prevent their effecting that, or penetrating into the Country, until you have farther Orders. I am, Sir, etc.

80. Phinney was colonel of a Massachusetts regiment, and, later, of the Eighteenth Continental Infantry.

**To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, November 9, 1775.

Sir: A Mr. Lewis, who left Boston yesterday afternoon, Informs me, that on Account of the Scarcity of Wood and Provisions in that Place, General Howe has Issued a Proclamation, desiring such of the Inhabitants as are Inclined to leave the Town to give in their Names and a list of their effects before 12 OClock this day.

As the Caution necessary to be used with these People, to prevent a Communication of the Small Pox and the proper care of them when out, are objects of exceeding great importance; I submit them to the consideration of your honble. Body, before it's recess, and if the Honble. Council should likewise adjourn, I must also recommend to your Attention the Necessity there is of constituting some Court, before whom all Persons inimical or Suspected to be Inimical to America, should be brought for examination. my time is so much taken up with Military affairs that it is impossible for me to pay a proper attention to these matters.—There will be sent to you amongst others a James Smithwiche, who from an intercepted Letter, appears to have resolved to get into Boston, there is a small Trunk belonging to him, now in my possession, which Contains in Gold and Silver about 500£ Lawful Money, which it is probable he intended to carry in with him. The owner and Capt. of a Small Coaster put into Beverly in distress, bound from Boston to Nova Scotia will appear before you; they have

carried on a Trade of supplying Boston with Provisions &c for some time. I beg leave to refer them to your examination, and have the Honor to be Sir, etc.

P.S. Smithwiche's Trunk will be sent to you with him.

**To THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, November 16, 1775.

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Sir: It was determined at a Conference held here in the last Month, that such Military Stores as could be spared from New York, Crown Point, Ticonderoga &c., should be sent here for the use of the Continental Army. As it was not clear to me, whether I was to send for or that they were to be sent to me, I desired Mr. Reed on his way to Philadelphia,

to enquire into this matter; as I have not heard from him on the subject, and the Season advancing fast, I have thought it necessary to send Hen: Knox Esqr who will deliver you this. After he forwards what he can get at your Place, he will proceed to Genl Schuyler, on this very important business.

I request the favor of you Sir, and the Gentlemen of your Congress, to give Mr. Knox all the assistance in your power, by so doing you will render infinite service to your Country and vastly oblige Sir, etc.

**\*To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD**

Cambridge, November 17, 1775.

Sir: As the Season is fast approaching, when the Bay between us and Boston, will in all probability, be close shut up, thereby rendering any Movement upon the Ice, as easy as if no Water was there; and, as it is more than possible that General Howe, when he gets the expected Reinforcements, will endeavour to relieve himself from the disgraceful confinement, in which the Ministerial Troops have been all this Summer; common prudence dictates the necessity of guarding our Camps, where ever they are most assailable; for this purpose, I wish you, General Thomas, Genl. Spencer, and Colonel Putnam, to meet me at your Quarters to-morrow at Ten 'O'Clock, that we may examine the Ground between your Work at the Mill and Sewel's Point, and direct such Batteries as shall appear necessary for the Security of your Camp, on that side, to be thrown up, without loss of time. I have long had it upon my Mind, that a successful attempt might be made, by way of surprise, on Castle William, from every Account there are not

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more than 300 Men in that Place; the Whale Boats, therefore, which you have, and such as could be sent to you, would easily transport 800 or 1000, which, with a very moderate Share of conduct and spirit, might, I should think, bring off the Garrison, if not some part of the Stores. I wish you to discuss

this Matter (under the Rose) with Officers of whose judgment and conduct you can rely; some thing of this sort may shew how far the Men are to be depended upon. I am with Respect, etc.

### **To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE**

Cambridge, November 18, 1775.

Sir: Your favor of the 13th Inst. by Mr. Philips I received, in answer thereto you will be pleased to order the Officers and Men that have been Stationed at Block Island, to March to this Camp. Reinforcements are Wanting, and probably will be; when they are here, they will be incorporated into the Continental Army, if they choose it, the many Circumstances attending the new arrangement of which had in some measure occasioned me to forget these Men before. When an Account of the Wages and Subsistence due to them is transmitted. I shall give necessary orders for their payment. I congratulate you upon your appointment to the Government of the Colony and am much obliged by the assurances you give me of such assistance as may be in your power. I am, etc.

### **To THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Cambridge, November 24, 1775.

Gentn: Capt. Aaron Willard recommends Ms. Moses Child to be his Colleague in the Journey to Nova Scotia; as I know nothing of this Gentleman, I cannot approve or disapprove of him. Mr. Willard informs me he is well known unto Doctr. Taylor, if you think him capable and trustworthy, you will please to fill up the Instructions with his Name, which

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Capt. Willard will give unto you. you will please to furnish Capt. Willard with Letters to Capt. Obryan and to Col Cargill to give every assistance to him and his Companion on their tour. I am with great respect Yours &c.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, November 29, 1775.

Gentn: The Necessity of giving furloughs to the Soldiers of the present, who Inlists into the new Army (by way of encouragement and to afford opportunity of providing necessities for themselves and Families) was so strongly impress'd upon me, that I have consented to fifty of a Regiment being absent at a time: this will be a reduction of at least 1500 Men from the Strength of our Lines: to this I am to add, that contrary to my expectations and assurances given, I now find that the Connecticut Regiments cannot be induced to stay beyond their Limited term. Such a Considerable diminution of our force, at a time when so capitol a change is taking Place in the face of an Enemy, Increasing in Strength,

cannot but be attended with extreme hazard, if some expedient is not fallen upon to supply the Deficiency.

I have summoned the General Officers, to meet at Head Quarters at eleven OClock to morrow, to advise what is to be done in this emergency, and should be glad to be aided by a Member or two of your Court, at the Consultation; as I think our Situation Critical and delays dangerous.

In perusing a Resolve of your Honble. body, I perceive it to be determined, that your Troops are to be paid by the Lunar (or 28 Days to the Month) from the time of their enlisting to the first of August.—upon which I cannot help observing as my opinion, that it will throw the rest of this Army into disorder and that as the Continental Congress have in explicit terms resolved, that it is the Kalender Month they mean to pay by; that the difference between the two must be considered as a Colonial not a Continental Charge.

**To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Cambridge, November 30, 1775.

Sir: I had the Honor to write you the 28th. inst. by Captain Joseph Blewer. Last evening I received the Agreeable Account of the Schooner Lee, commanded by Capt. Manly having taken and carried into Cape Ann a large Brigantine bound from London to Boston laden with Military Stores, the Inventory of which I have the pleasure to enclose You.<sup>31</sup>

Cape Ann is a very open Harbour and accessible to large Ships, which made me immediately send off, Col: Glover and Mr. Palfrey, with orders to raise the Minute Men and Militia of that part of the Country, to have the Cargo landed without Loss of Time and guarded

31. The *Nancy*. The inventory of her cargo is in the *Washington Papers*.

up to this Camp; this I hope they will be able to effect, before it is known to the Enemy what port she is carried into, I sincerely congratulate you on this very great Acquisition and am, Sir, etc.

P S: Manly has also taken a Sloop in the Ministerial Service and Capt. Adams in the Schooner Warren, a Schooner laden with Potatoes and Turnips for Boston and carried her to Portsmouth.

**To COLONEL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

Cambridge, December 4, 1775.

Sir: Henry Knox Esqr. having informed me by Letter from New York of the 27th Ult. that upon his application, you had been kind enough to promise your good Offices in Congress, to have 12 good Iron 4 Pounders with a Quantity of Shells and Shot, sent to this Camp; and also to spare two Brass 6 Pounders. I have now the Pleasure to acquaint you, that we

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are fully supplied with Shells and Shot from the Store Ship, which has fortunately fallen into our Hands, and there is no necessity that these two Articles should be sent. The Cannon are much wanted, and I shall be much obliged by your having them forwarded, as expeditiously as possible. I am &c.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, December 10, 1775.

Sirs: I this moment received from Mr. Thomas Crafts the Letter you have inclosed, from which it will appear, that some of the People who came out of Boston, are infected with the Small Pox. as this disorder should it spread may prove very disastrous and fatal to our Army and the Country around it, I should hope that you will have such necessary Steps taken, as will prevent the infection's being farther communicated. I am Sir, etc.

### **To THE COMMITTEE OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT**

Cambridge, December 11, 1775.

Gentn.: The Prisoners which will be delivered you with this, having been tried by a Court Martial, and deem'd to be such flagrant and atrocious villains, that they cannot by any means be set at large or confined in any Place near this Camp, were sentenced to be sent to Symsbury in Connecticut; you will therefore be pleased, to have them secured in your Jail, or in such other Manner as to you shall seem Necessary, so that they Cannot possibly make their escape. the charges of their imprisonment will be at the Continental expence. I am &c.

### **To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE**

Cambridge, December 17, 1775.

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Sir: By Sundry persons and Accounts just from Boston, I am informed, that the Minesterial Army is in very great distress for want of fresh Provisions and having received intelligence that there are 200 fat Cattle on Block Island and some Transport Vessels cruizing that way, in quest of Necessaries for the Army, I must request you to have the Cattle &c. removed from thence immediately, and from every other place where their Ships can come and take them of; It is a matter of the utmost importance, to prevent their getting a Supply; If they can be hindered now, the advanced Season of the year and the Inclement Weather, which we may expect ere long, will put it out of their power.

I yesterday received the inclosed information from several persons who lately came out from Boston, which I thought my duty to transmit to you. It is more than probable, that the destination of the Troops may be very different from what they have given out; they may have made use of that to deceive in another Quarter?<sup>65</sup> I am &c.

65. The information in the last paragraph was also sent to Governor Trumbull, this date, with an additional sentence: "Brig. Genl Prescott as it is said, having treated Col. Allen with Severity, I beg your particular attention, least he should escape." Brig. Gen. Richard Prescott had surrendered at Montreal. This was the same officer captured two years later by the daring of Col. William Barton, of the Rhode Island Militia.

### **To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD**

Cambridge, December 17, 1775.

Sir: The applications for liberty to go to the lines are so frequent that they cause much trouble. You will, therefore, Sir, grant passes to such as you may think proper. At the same time I would recommend to you that the officer who will attend upon these occasions be a person of sense, and one who will carefully attend to the conversation of those who meet on the lines. I am, etc.<sup>66</sup>

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66. The text is from the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, December 23, 1775.

Sir: Notwithstanding the great pains taken by the Quarter Master General, to procure Blankets for the Army, he finds it impossible to procure a number sufficient. he has tried the different places to the Southward without success, as what were there, are engaged to supply the wants of the Troops in each place.

Our Soldiers are in great distress and I know of no way to remedy the evil, than applying to you, cannot some be got from the different Towns; most houses could spare one, some of them many. If your Honble. House will please to take this affair under your immediate consideration and by some means or other procure as many as can be spared from the House Keepers, you will do infinite Service to this Army and very much oblige.<sup>76</sup> Your etc.

76. The same letter was sent to the New Hampshire Legislature, Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, and Gov. Nicholas Cooke. Cooke succeeded in collecting 180 blankets.

### **To MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY**

Cambridge, January 12, 1776.

Dear Sir: Every Account from your Quarter serves to confirm our Hopes that you will get Possession of Quebec if not already in your Hands. I must beg, therefore, your Attention to the Wants of the Army here, which are not few, and if they cannot in some Part be supplied by you, I do not know where else I can apply. After Powder, the principal Deficiency is that of Arms. Those brought in by the Soldiers are so very indifferent that I cannot place Confidence in them. Blankets and Cloathing we are very deficient in. Of these and other Necessaries, I am taught to beleive, there is Abundance in Canada.

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Quebec is, I suppose, the great Magazine for them, and all Kind of military Stores. I hope it will be in your Power to forward to this Place from thence a sufficient Quantity to relieve our Wants. Whatever you can spare we shall have Occasion for, and your sending them as expeditiously as possible, will be doing vast Service to this Army, and very much oblige, Sir, Yrs.

P.S. Arms we are exceedingly in Want of. These I could wish to receive without Delay, if you can supply them from the King's Stores in Quebec.

### **To COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD**

Cambridge, January 12, 1776.

Sir: Your Favour of the 5th. Ult. from before Quebec inclosing the Returns of your Detachment, is come to Hand. From the Account you give of the Garrison, and State of the Walls, I expect soon to hear from you, within them, which will give me vast Pleasure.

I am informed that there are large Quantities of Arms, Blanketts, Cloathing, and other military Stores in that City. These are Articles which we are in great Want of here; I have, therefore, wrote to General Montgomery, or whoever is commanding Officer in that Quarter, to send me as much as can be spared from thence. If you can assist in expediting their Dispatch, you will much oblige me.

I understand that the Congress have it under their Consideration to raise an Army for the Defence of Canada on a new Establishment. When I received this Information I applied to Congress to know, whether it was their Intention that you and the Officers in your Department, were to be appointed there, or remain as you were appointed in this Army, as newly arranged, to which I have not yet received their Answer.

The Want of so many good Officers is felt here, especially in the recruiting service, which does not go on so brisk as I could wish. I think it will be best for you, to settle for the

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Arrearages due to your Men since October last, with the PayMaster of the Army at your Place. I don't know any better Way for you or them to receive it. I am, Sir, etc.

**To COMMODORE JOHN MANLEY**

Cambridge, January 28, 1776.

Sir: I received your agreeable Letter of the 26th. Instt, giving an Account of your having taken and carried into Plymouth, two of the Enemy's Transports. Your Conduct in engaging the eighth Gun Schooner, with so few Hands as you went out with, your Attention in securing your Prizes, and your general good Behaviour since you first engaged in the Service, merits mine, and your Country's Thanks.<sup>56</sup>

You may be assured that every Attention will be paid to any reasonable Request of yours, and that you shall have the Command of a stronger Vessel of War; but as it will take up some Time before such a one can be fitted out, my Desire is, that you continue in the Hancock, untill the End of the

56. "Captain Manley took two prizes last week and to save himself was obliged to run his vessel ashore at North River and left her; the enemy boarded her, but Manley gave them such heavy fire that they were obliged to quit her, taking nothing, save one swivel gun, which gun he sometime before borrowed of them."— *Gen. Artemas Ward to Congress*, Feb. 3, 1776.

Cruise. When that is out you will come to Head Quarters, and we will confer together on the Subject of the other Ship. I wish you could engage Men at Plymouth to make your Complement at least 40 strong. It would enable you to encounter the small Tenders that may fall in your Way; tho' I would rather have you avoid an Engagement, until you have a Ship that will place you upon a more equal Footing with your Enemy. I need not recommend to you to proceed again and pursue your good Fortune. I wish you could inspire the Captains of the other armed Schooners under your Command with some of

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your Activity and Industry. Cannot you appoint such Stations for them, where they may have the best Chance of intercepting Supplies going to the Enemy? They dare not disobey your Orders as it is mentioned in the Instructions I have given to each of them, that they are to be under your Command as Commodore, and as such I desire that you will give them such Instructions in Writing, as to you will appear proper for the good of the Service. I am, Sir, wishing you a Continuance of Success. Your's &c.

### **To THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE**

Cambridge, January 31, 1776.

Sir: Mr. Glover called upon the General this day informing him, that the Legislative Power of this Province, were about making some Alterations or Amendment in the Act relative to Captures made by Armed Vessels, fitted out of this Colony, so as to make that Act conformable to the resolutions of Congress. He also mentioned that some difficulties may arise after Condemnation, respecting the Sale of Prizes made by the Continental Vessels, as it seems the deputy Sherrif is ordered to take charge of, and Sell the Prizes made by Vessels, fitted out by individuals, or otherwise. That will certainly militate with the agreement entered into by his Excellency with the Agents appointed by him, who are to have a Certain Commission and no more, for transacting that business. Now Sir, I am ordered by the General to lay the Matter before you, requesting that no future impediments may arise, after Condemnation of these Vessels, to interrupt the Sale of them and Cargoes. A clause in this particular, enacting that all Vessels taken by the Cruizers fitted out at the Continental expence, shall be given up to the Agents appointed for negotiating that business, immediately after Condemnation, will answer every purpose of this application to you.

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I have the Honor to inclose you a Resolve of Congress, empowering the paymaster General of this Army to draw Bills on the President, with an extract, from his Letter to his Excellency on the same subject. I am Sir, etc.<sup>67</sup>

### To TIMOTHY PICKERING, JUNIOR

Cambridge, February 1, 1776.

Sir: Your favor of yesterday I received and am sorry to hear, that the Quota of Militia, which the Town of Salem was to furnish by Resolve of the Honorable

67. This letter in the "Letter Book," *Washington Papers*, is in the writing of George Lewis, but the Varick Transcripts give the signature as Washington's. Lacking the letter sent, it is difficult to determine who signed it. The resolve of Congress referred to is that of January 16.

General Court, cannot be had. The generous tender of Services made by you, Sir, and the rest of the Volunteers claims a return of my sincere thanks;—should I have occasion to call upon them, I shall do it; at present I wish them to continue at Salem and to hold themselves in readiness. I am, Sir, etc.

### To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE

Head Quarters, Cambridge, March 14, 1776.

Dear Sir: I am indebted to you for your three several Favors of the 19th and 29th of Febr. and 3rd March, which I should have acknowledged sooner, had not the great Hurry and Bustle we have been in for several Days past, prevented.

You have doubtless heard before this Time of our being in Possession of Dorchester Hill, which important Business was executed in one Night without any Loss. The Enemy were thrown into utmost Consternation when they perceived, the next morning, what

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had been effected the preceding Night, and made Preparations to dislodge us. Three Thousand Men under Command of Lord Piercy were draughted for this Service; but a very heavy Storm of Wind and Rain frustrated their Design. In my Opinion, the most fortunate Circumstance for them and unfortunate for us, that could have happened; as we had every Thing so well prepared for their Reception, that, I am confident we should have given a very good Account of them. Failing in this Attempt, they have thought it most prudent to quit the Town, and have been for several Days past very busily employed in embarking their Troops, and Stores, on Board Transports, most of which are now in Nantasket Road, waiting for a fair Wind to sail somewhere. It is most probable their Destination is for New York. The vast Importance of that Place is doubtless a capital Object with them. It is most certainly so to us; and in Consequence of their shameful Retreat I shall begin to march Part of this Army immediately and follow with the Remainder, as soon as their Accommodations on the Road, will permit.

I am informed by two very intelligent Men, who made their Escape from Boston, that they embark in great Confusion, are obliged to destroy many of their Carriages and Waggon, for Want of Room to transport them; that they are greatly distress'd for Seamen to man their Transports and that the few they have, are put on half Allowance, Provisions being so scarce that they have not more than sufficient for four

Weeks.

I was just about to congratulate you on your Appointment to the Command in Canada, when I receiv'd the Account that your Destination was altered. As a Virginian, I must rejoice at the Change; but, as an American, I think you would have done more essential Service to the common Cause, in Canada. For, besides the Advantage of speaking and thinking in French, an Officer who is acquainted with their Manners and Customs and has travell'd in their Country, must certainly take the strongest Hold of their Affection and Confidence.

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You mention nothing of the Guard that went with you from hence. Mr. Palfrey tells me you intend to carry them with you. As it will create great Confusion in the regimental Accounts, and they can be of no great service to you, I must beg you will let them remain at New York, where they will be soon joined by their respective Regiments.

The recruiting Business here has gone on but very slowly indeed.

I am much pleased with your Plans for the Defence and Security of New York. What you may leave unfinished, I shall order the Commanding Officer to compleat as soon as possible.

Least the Enemy should meet with favourable Winds in their Passage, and get there before our Army, I have wrote to Governor Trumbull desiring him immediately to forward two Thousand Men, and have also requested one Thousand from the Jersies. This, with the Force already there, I hope will be able to keep the ministerial Army at Bay, untill I can arrive with the main Body.

I most sincerely wish you Increase of Health and every Blessing & am, etc.

P.S. The Ladies are well and desire their Compts. I am obliged to you for sending Mr. Palfrey, and shall endeavour to serve him, whenever it is in my Power.

### **To GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE**

Head Quarters, Cambridge, April 1, 1776.

Sir: I have this moment received your favor of yesterday by Express, and shall take every necessary step to send you all the reinforcement I possibly can, and that without delay. General Green was to have march'd to day with five Regiments for Norwich, by way of Providence; I have ordered him to hasten his march. General Sullivan with Six Regiments, set off last Friday Evening for Norwich; I have sent an Express after him, Ordering him to

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file off his Brigade for Providence. If the alarm should prove false, I must request the favor of you to send an Express to meet General Sullivan and order him to continue his route.

I am unacquainted with the Situation of Rhode Island and cannot tell how far it may be supported, but should think it advisable immediately to take the Stock from that and the neighbouring Islands, to prevent the Enemy from getting a supply of fresh provisions, which perhaps is their object. I make no doubt, you will take every necessary precaution to stop their progress, and you may depend upon being supported, as far as is in my power.

If it should be certain, that the Ministerial Army intend to effect a landing upon Rhode Island, I shall soon be with you; In the mean time I beg you will send me constant and particular Accounts of all occurrences, that you may think worth communicating. I am Sir etc.

P.S. upon second Consideration, I must request you at all events to send an Express immediately to Genl. Sullivan, whether the Alarm should prove true or false. (Also wrote him to send Teams or Waggon.)<sup>94</sup>

94. The alarm, entirely false, was due to foggy weather and the imagination of three soldiers.

### **To JACOB BAYLEY**

New York, April 29, 1776.

Sir: I received your Favour of the 29th Inst., with Mr. Metcalf's Plan, and Captain Johnson's Journal of the Route from Newbury to St. John's. The Representation that was transmitted to me by the Hands of Colonel Little,<sup>67</sup> I had sent to Congress. Mr. Weatherspoon has been since sent to examine or explore a Route; but, I hear, he is still at Cohoos. The Time of the Congress is so taken up with many Objects of Consequence, that it is impossible for them to attend to every Thing, and as it is of Importance, that every Communication

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with Canada should be made as free as possible, it is my Opinion and Desire, that you set about the Road you propose as soon as possible. As you must be the best Judge who to employ you will please to take the whole upon yourself. We cannot at this Time spare Soldiers. You must, therefore, engage such Men as you know will do the Business faithfully, and well. As to their Wages, you must agree with them on the most reasonable Terms, and I doubt not that you will in this and every other Instance, serve your Country with Integrity, Honour, and Justice. As you go on, you will upon every Opportunity keep me advised and I will provide for the Expence, which you will be careful in making as light as possible. I am, sir, etc.

P.S. I send you by Mr. William Wallace £250 lawful Money to begin with.

67. Col. Moses Little.

### **To COLONEL JAMES CLINTON**

New York, May 2, 1776.

Sir: Having received Information that there is a Number of Arms at one Wiltseys at the Fishkills, among the Officers Baggage which came from St. Johns, I request and authorize you to make Inquiry about them and to secure all you can find. I am, etc.<sup>2</sup>

2. The "Letter Book" copy by George Lewis mistakenly attributes this to George Clinton.

### **To COLONEL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

New York, May 7, 1776.

Sir: I received your Favour upon the Subject of Rations, and agreeable to your Request have inclosed a List of Rations allowed the Officers of the Regiments before Boston. Those in Service the 1st of July, have been allowed from that Time; Others appointed to Office since, from the Dates of their Commissions.

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Having never given any Direction about the Officers alluded to, or any others, except those that were immediately under my Command, I would observe that I do not mean to do it in this Instance, as they were acting in a distinct and different District. I am, etc.

### **To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD**

New York, May 13, 1776.

Sir: Your Favour of the 4th. Inst. with Return of the Division of the Army under your Command is come to Hand.

The Account you give of your Progress in fortifying the Town and Harbour of Boston is very agreeable. When the Works are compleated, I think you will have but little to apprehend from the Enemy, should they incline to pay you another Visit.

Inclosed is a Petition from Colonel Varnum, which I beg you will attend to: If the Facts are as set forth therein, he must be redressed; for if such Practices as he complains of are given the least Countenance to, it will have the Worst of Consequences, by encouraging Soldiers to shift from one Regiment to another, and throw the whole Army into Confusion.

I have had no Advice from Congress relative to your Resignation.<sup>46</sup> I shall write them this Day to know whom they may think proper to appoint

<sup>46</sup>. Ward's resignation had been accepted by Congress on April 23.

to the Command in your State. When I receive their Answer, you shall be informed thereof.

Inclosed is a Copy of a Resolve of Congress respecting the Cannon in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.<sup>47</sup> I am, Sir, etc.

### **To ISAAC SEARS**

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New York, May 13, 1776.

Sir: I received your favor of the 2d Inst. and am fully of opinion with you, that the Resolves of Congress, should be strictly adhered to; As the regulation of the Price of Tea, or any other Article, is quite foreign to my department, I shall leave such Matters to the Provincial Congress before whom I will this day lay your Letter, and I doubt not they will take such steps as will put a stop to the evil you are apprehensive of. I am &c.

### **To COLONEL DAVID WATERBURY**

New York, May 13, 1776.

Sir: Governor Trumbull has been pleased to mention you to me as a proper Person to succeed to the Command of the Regiment, lately General Arnold's.

If you incline to engage in the Service again, I should be obliged to you for signifying as much; in Order that I may lay the Matter before Congress for their Approbation. I am, etc.

47. The resolve of May 7, 1776, permitting the cannon in Boston that had not been removed by General Washington to remain there for the protection of the town.

### **To PHILIP VAN RENSSELAER<sup>63</sup>**

New York, May 17, 1776.

Sir: I received your Favour of the 6th. Inst. and am of Opinion, as you have not a sufficient Number of Armourers at Albany to repair the whole of the Arms in your Possession, that whatever more you have than can be repaired in a convenient Time, had better be sent immediately to the Armourers here. This will save much Time, which would be lost were the Armourers to go from hence and return again. I am, etc.

63. Commissary of military stores at Albany, N.Y.

**To COLONEL JAMES CLINTON**

Head Quarters, New York, June 14, 1776.

Sir: You are to repair to Fort Montgomery and take upon you the Command of the Posts in the Highlands. Use every Means in your Power to provide your Regiment with Arms fit for Service; As one Step towards which, endeavour to employ an Armourer or two, or more, as the Case may require.

Use every possible Diligence in forwarding the Works at Forts Montgomery and Constitution, agreeable to late Directions given to Mr. Bedlow, who will furnish you with the same: as it is proposed by the Provincial Congress of New York to recall their Commissioners from those Posts, and leave the Care of them altogether to the Commanding Officer of the Continental Forces and his Order.

As these are or may become Posts of infinite Importance, especially the lower one; I cannot

sufficiently impress upon you the Necessity of putting them into a fit Posture of Defence, without Delay. I have desired that a Battalion or at least five Hundred of the York Militia, may be ordered to reinforce those Garrisons, as well for the Purpose of Defence, as to assist in the Work. These are also to be under your Command. The whole are to be kept close to Duty, and not suffered to be absent on Furlough, but in Case of real Necessity, and then not more than two at a Time are to be absent from a Company at once.

Review the Men, inspect the Arms &c. and make a Report of the State of Things, so soon as you get to these Posts. Your Lieutt. Colo. Livingston<sup>68</sup> is to be sent to this Place, in Order to proceed to Long Island, to take Charge of the Remainder of your Regiment, posted toward the East End thereof.

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Inform me, if there are Barracks or Houses convenient to the Forts Montgomery and Constitution, in which the Militia ordered there, can be lodged.

Make Weekly Returns of your Strength, and advise me regularly of all Occurrences of any Kind, of Importance.

### **To JOSHUA WENTWORTH**

New York, June 15, 1776.

Sir: I received yours of the 1st. Inst. and am to inform you, your Letters of the 15th. and 22nd. of April, advising of the Capture of the Brig Elizabeth by Commodore Manley, were put into the Hands of Mr. Moylan to answer; but by some Means

68. Lieut. Col. Henry Beekman Livingston.

or other were not; nor can they be found. It will be, therefore, necessary to acquaint me again with the Contents, if you esteem my Answer to them material.

I have, agreeable to your Request, transmitted you Copies of such Resolves of Congress respecting your Department as are in my Hands. They will point out the Line of Conduct to be observed in general Cases, which I apprehend must be pursued. But if there is any Thing particular in the Capture you mention, which is not provided for, it will be proper that it should be forwarded me, in Order to my referring it to Congress for their Opinion.

It is likely the Memorial you mention, if presented, has already occasioned them to determine upon the Matter. If they have not, and I find it necessary, I shall transmit them such a Representation of the Circumstances of this Capture, as you may send me, not intending myself to point out any Rule of Decision not authorized by Congress. I am, etc.

### **To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES**

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New York, June 24, 1776.

Sir: The Honourable the Continental Congress, reposing the greatest Confidence in your Wisdom, and Experience, have directed me to appoint you, to the very important Command of the Troops of the United Colonies in Canada, with a Power to appoint a Deputy Adjt. Genl., a Depy. Qr. Mr. Genl., a Depy. Muster Mr. Genl. and such other Officers as you shall find necessary for the good of the Service.<sup>16</sup> You are also empowered to fill up all Vacancies in the Army in Canada, and notify the same to Congress for their Approbation.

You are also authorized until the 1st. of October next, to suspend any Officers, and fill up all Vacancies, transmitting to the Honorable Congress such Order and Suspension, giving your Reasons therefore, and specifying the special Charge made against such Officer.

You are directed, previous to your Departure, to consult with the Commissary General, and concert with him the most effectual Measures for continuing proper Supplies of Provisions for that Department.

You are in like Manner to consult with Colonel Knox about the Artillery which may be wanted, and what may probably be procured there; and whether any Brass or Iron Field Pieces can be spared from hence for that Service.

Upon your Arrival at Albany, you will consult with General Schuyler,

16. Gates had made himself exceedingly popular with the Massachusetts element during the siege of Boston, and Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, was ever ready to follow the Massachusetts lead. He wrote to Washington (June 13): "It is more than probable, that Congress will order our friend Gates to Canada. His great abilities and virtue will be absolutely necessary to restore things there, and his recommendations will always be readily complied with. You will find that great powers are given to the Commander in that distant department. The system for Canada, adopted since the arrival of the

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Commissioners here, will, I hope, be of essential service to our affairs. All good men pray most heartily for your health, happiness, and success, and none more than your affectionate friend." Had not Thomas died, the New England influence would, probably, have sent Gates to command at Boston. Lee's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

with Respect to the present State of Provisions, Stores &c., and fix upon some certain Means of forwarding the regular Supplies in future from that Place. At the same Time endeavour to learn whether Supplies heretofore sent, have not reached that Department, and by what Means such Failures have happened, that a proper Remedy may be provided. From General Schuyler you will also receive such Advice and Information respecting the Operations of the Campaign as may be useful and necessary. You are to direct all the General Officers, Depy. Qr. Master General, local Commissaries, Paymaster in Canada, and all other Persons there, or on the Communication without Delay to render their Accounts and settle them. No General Officer on such Settlement, receiving Pay as Colonel of a Regiment, or any Field Officer as Captain of a Company.

Upon your taking the Command of the Troops, you will give particular Orders agreeable to a Rule of Congress that no Officer suttle or sell to the Soldiers, on Penalty of being fined one Month's Pay, and dismissed the Service with Infamy.

That all Sales of Arms, Cloathing, Ammunition, and Accoutrements made by Soldiers, are to be deemed void. That the Baggage of Officers and Soldiers is hereafter to be regulated conformably to the Rules of the British Armies.

By a like Resolve no Troops in Canada are to be disbanded there; but all Soldiers in that Country ordered to be disbanded, or whose Times of Inlistment being expired, shall refuse to reinlist, shall be sent under proper Officers to Ticonderoga, or such other Posts on the Lakes, as you shall direct, where they are to be mustered, and the Arms, Accoutrements,

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Blankets, and Utensils which they may have belonging to the Public, shall be delivered up and deposited in the public Store.

You will as soon as possible make as accurate a Return as you can procure of the Troops, Artillery, Arms, Ammunition, Provision, and Stores, which you find in Canada, or upon the Communication with Albany distinguishing where stationed, and in what Magazines; and if possible transmit such a Return to the Honorable Continental Congress, and to me, once a Fortnight.

The Distance of the Scene, and the frequent Changes which have happened in the State of our Affairs in Canada, do not allow me to be more particular in my Instructions. The Command is important, the Service difficult, but honourable; and I most devoutly pray that Providence may crown your Arms with abundant Success. Given under my Hand, etc.

### **To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JACOB BAYLEY**

New York, June 25, 1776.

Sir: I this Morning received yours of the 28th Ult., and approve the Measures you had adopted for

opening the Road to St. John's, which may be still proper to pursue; but as our Army in Canada, since their Retreat from Quebec has met with further Misfortunes, and there is the strongest Reason to believe they will be obliged to abandon the Possession of that Country, if they have not already done it; I would advise you, to consider well the Advantages and Disadvantages that will result from compleating the Work. If the Enemy will be thereby afforded an easy Pass to make Incursions into our Colonies and to commit Depredations, and the Advantages we shall derive from it, will not greatly overballance these Inconveniences, it will be improper to carry it on. The Change which has taken Place in our Affairs in that Quarter, may render now, what was extremely right to be done some Time ago, very inexpedient and unadvisable. As you are well acquainted with the Country

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thro' which the Communication was designed to be made, and I am not, I shall submit the Propriety of compleating it to you, under the Circumstances I have mentiond, not meaning to direct you to one Thing or another.

I presume you received my Letter of the 29th. of April, and the two Hundred and fifty Pounds

I sent by Mr. Wallace. You have not mentioned it. I am, etc.

### **To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN TUPPER**

New York, June 25, 1776.

Sir: I this Morning received Information, that one or more Boats have passed through the Narrows in Defiance of the Fire from the Rifle Men, who had no Boats to pursue them. This Passage I had Reason to suppose was properly guarded, by the whale Boats under your Command, and am not a little surprised on hearing the contrary.

I do expect you will for the Future have them rowing across the Narrows from Dusk of the Evening to Day Light in the Morning, giving Orders to each Boat to keep the strictest Lookout; as there is no Doubt our inveterate Enemies who have had a Hand in the late horrid Plot, will try every Method in their Power to escape from the Hands of Justice.<sup>20</sup> I am, etc.

20. The so-called Hickey Plot. (See note to General Orders, June 27, 1776, *post*.)

### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES WADSWORTH**

New York, June 27, 1776.

Sir: Having received Information of your being appointed to command the Militia, to be furnished by your Colony for the Defence of this Place, I entreat you to give Notice to the

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Officers who are principally concerned in raising them, that their March be expedited as much as possible, or the Assistance they are meant to afford may come too late; as, in all Probability the Enemy, immediately on their Arrival, will make their grand Push, especially if they are apprized of our weak State.

It will be indispensibly necessary for the Men to come provided with Arms, as it will not be in my Power to furnish them with one; having many here already unarmed: nor will it contribute to the Service in the least Degree, if they do not. I, therefore, request the utmost Attention to this Matter, of the last Importance and that none come without.

As it will be proper that an Arrangement should be formed, and regular Orders given as to their Disposition, previous to their coming, to prevent Disorder and Confusion; I desire, as soon as you have notified your principal Officers, of what I have said about forwarding the Troops, and bringing Arms, that you repair here yourself, to receive

your Instructions, and to be in Readiness to give such Directions to them as may be necessary for these Purposes. I am etc.

### **To THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE**

Head Quarters, New York, June 27, 1776.

Sir: The necessity of the most Vigorous and decisive Measures in our present Circumstances, will I doubt not justify to your Honorable Body, the removal of the Stock of Cattle and Horses, from those parts of the Coast most exposed to the Enemy; after a long and fatiguing Voyage they will need Refreshment of this Nature and there is no doubt they will have them, if Possible on any Terms. Common prudence therefore and a regard to our own safety, strongly evince the necessity of depriving them of such supplies, as will enable them to act with more Vigour and Spirit against us; Tho' painful and disagreeable, it seems to be a measure which the great Law of self preservation now requires. Inclosed I transmit the unanimous Resolution of a Council of Genl Officers,<sup>29</sup> advising such removal without

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delay, in which it is proposed to pay a suitable regard to the necessities of the People. I flatter myself that in a Matter of such Importance and difficulty, The Honble. Body over which you preside, will approve of the proposal and carry it into execution, or co-operate with me in the most effectual Steps for the purpose. I have the Honor to be etc.

29. This council was held on June 27 and was attended by Brig. Gens. William Heath, Joseph Spencer, Nathanael Greene, and Lord Stirling. The original proceedings are in the *Washington Papers*.

### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER**

Head Quarters, 9 OClock P.M., July 4, 1776.

Dear Sir: I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favours of Yesterday and this Morning, and approve much of the Steps you have taken for securing the Ferries, as well as quieting the Apprehensions of the Inhabitants of New-Ark, by stationing some Troops there.

Upon full Consideration of all Circumstances, I have concluded to send the Militia Home, except 500, to guard Bergen Neck, which I deem an important Post, and capable of being used very much to our Prejudice. I am also of Opinion that a Body about Woodbridge and Amboy would be very useful. I propose to retain the Morris County Militia for the first Purpose, and leave it to General Livingston, to order the Security of the other Places. As to the Militia who have marched from distant Parts, I suppose like all others, they are impatient to return to their Farms and Business; and as others are discharged, it will be difficult to keep them. However, that I leave to General Livingston, who, if he thinks they are necessary for the Defence of the Province, will give them his Orders; but I do not require their Service any longer.

I cannot spare Captain Burr any Swivels, the row Gallies requiring all I have.

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I would by all Means recommend to you, to place a Guard at the two Ferries, Hackinsack, and Passaic. I shall send over an Engineer To-Morrow, to erect some Works for the Security of these Places. The Militia of distant Parts are better in such Cases, than the Militia of the Neighbourhood.

In detaining Troops, you will please to distinguish, and inculcate upon others, the Distinction between the New Levies, and Militia. Every Man of the former, I expect with all Expedition. I am etc.

**To COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN<sup>85</sup>**

New York, July 6, 1776.

Sir: Governor Trumbull having informed me in a Letter of the 3rd. Inst., that he had ordered three Regiments of the Militia light Horse to march to the Defence of this Place, under the Command of Lieutt. Colo. Seymour,<sup>86</sup> least the other Troops from your Colony should not arrive in Time for succour; and at the same Time requesting, if their Service is unnecessary or can be dispensed with, that I would signify it to you. I must take this Opportunity to acquaint you, that the Intelligence we have received from three or four Prisoners, that have fallen in our Hands within a few Days past, leads me to conclude, that no Force that can be collected, will be too great to ward off the Blow that our Enemies mean to strike in a little Time. They say (the Prisoners), Genl. Howe has already 10,000 Men here, being joined by some Regiments from the West Indies, and Part of the Highland Troops in his Passage and that he is in daily Expectation of the Arrival of Admiral Howe, with a large Fleet of 150 Sail, with Troops on Board; That before he left Hallifax, a Packet had arrived there, giving Intelligence that he would be met here by this Fleet in a very little Time, and that the Expectation of them, is the only Reason why the Enemy have not begun their Operations. From these Accounts, you will readily conceive the Necessity of our most vigorous and spirited Exertions and that there is Occasion here

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85. Colonel Silliman was at Fairfield, Conn., in command of a Connecticut State regiment. He became a brigadier general of Connecticut Militia in 1777.

86. Col. Thomas Seymour, commandant of Volunteer Connecticut Light Horse.

for all the Men that can be possibly got. But what to do with the Horses of this Reinforcement, I am at a Loss to determine: It will be impossible to support them, and if it could be done, the Expence would be enormous. I cannot think myself at Liberty to consent to the Horses coming; at the same Time, I must request your Exertions to prevail on the Men. They may have it in their Power to dismiss their Horses, perhaps after bringing them almost here. The Exigency of our Affairs calls aloud for their Assistance, and more especially, as there is almost a moral Certainty that the Battalions which are intended for this Place, will be some Time before they all arrive and when they do, will not be more than half compleat.

Recommending to your and their Notice what I have said; and the alarming Consequences that may result, from not having sufficient and timely succour to repel the Enemy. I am Sir, etc.

### **To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

Head Quarters, New York, July 9, 1776.

Sir: Your's, of the Inst., is safely come to hand. Col. Seymour arrived yesterday with a few of his Men, when I sent for and acquainted him, it would be impossible for me to have his Horses remain here; Forrage is not to be procured; and, if it could, it would only be a great expence, without a single Advantage arising from it.

The Men are absolutely necessary, till the arrival of the New Levies;—Colo. Seymour is to propose the Matter to them this Morning and return me an Answer. We have intelligence, that may be relied on, of Lord Howe's being on his passage for this place with a large

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Fleet and about 15,000 Men, and is hourly expected. By several deserters from Staten Island and the Ships of War, whose Accounts all agree;—that Genl. Howe proposes no Attempt on us, till the Arrival of this reinforcement, when, it is said, with a part of his Army, he will make a descent on the Jersey side, while the Fleet and the other part of the Army in Conjunction, attack this City. To oppose this force, in which the Ministry put so much Confidence, I think it necessary to exert our every Nerve, and, by defeating their Views this Campaign, be enabled to meet them with double advantage the next; should they think proper to pursue their unwarrantable measures, I hope the good people of your Colony, or State, will be ready, on all occasions, to fly to our assistance, if needed; I have a Confidence in and doubt not they will be ready and willing.

To prevent the Enemy from obtaining fresh provisions, is a Matter highly necessary to be attended to. I am informed that there are great Quantities on the Islands in the Neighbourhood of New-London, Vizt: Fishers, Block, Plumb and Elizabeth Islands and Martha's Vineyard; these are accessible to Ships of force, and no doubt, they will soon be on a plundering Voyage. I could wish your Attention to this Matter, that the Stock might all be removed quite out of reach of the Enemy. The East end of Long Island, I am told, is not less exposed than the others; I think effectual steps will be taken in regard to that, as I have had a Conference with the Convention of this Province, and an order has gone out for driving all the Stock from the Sea Coasts.

In conference, of a full Board of

General Officers yesterday, it was recommended, I should apply to your Honor for the three Row Gallies, being now at New London, or in the River; together with as many heavy Cannon as you can possibly spare, they are what will be much wanted here; and, if you find it consistent, would beg you to forward them on as soon as possible.<sup>98</sup>

I would not have it understood, from what I said above in regard to the *Horse* , that I think it a wrong step their coming forward. I think it a Step, which was highly advisable; and am

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much pleased to see, with what chearfulness and dispatch your Orders were executed. This Body of Horse, provided they are well Arm'd with good Muskets, must always be of greater Service, on sudden emergencies; to throw in succours when call'd for than the Militia. I have the honor to be, etc.

### To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD

New York, July 11, 1776.

Sir: Since writing you on the 9th. Inst., I have been "honoured" with a Letter from Congress inclosing a Resolve, a Copy of which you have transmitted herewith, empowering me to call to the Assistance of the Army here, the other two Regiments of Continental Troops, now in the Massachusetts Government, and not ordered in my last, to be detached to join the northern Army. I am now to request, by Advice of my General Officers,

98. The sinking of hulks at Tappan Bay to block the passage up the river; using the Connecticut volunteer troop of horse, but sending the horses back to Connecticut; and ordering three regiments from Boston to Canada were decided upon. The proceedings of this conference (July 8), in the writing of Joseph Reed, are in the *Washington Papers*.

that you will give immediate Orders not only to them, but the three destined for the Northward, to repair with all possible Dispatch to Norwich, where they will embark; it being the Opinion of all the Officers, that it will be better for the whole, as well the three intended for the Northward, as those to reinforce the Troops here, to take this Rout in Preference of any other. It may turn out the most expeditious, and it is certain the Men will be eased from the Fatigues of a long and disagreeable March at this hot and uncomfortable Season. It will be necessary, that you should write Mr. Huntingdon<sup>13</sup> at Norwich, to prepare as many Vessels as will bring the whole of them. The Qr. Master and Commissary, you will give proper Orders to, that they may provide, in each of their Departments, such Supplies of Necessaries for the Rout, as may be wanted.

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I have just now received your Favour of the 4th. Inst. with its several Inclosures. It is extremely unlucky, that the small Pox should prevail in the Army at this Time; but such is the Necessity, that every possible Succour should be given to the Troops here and those at the Northward, at this critical Period, that it is the Sentiment of myself and other General Officers, that the whole of the Regiments, that are not

13. Joshua Huntington.

infected with the Disorder, should be instantly forwarded. The Calamities that would flow from its being communicated to the whole Army are too obvious to need Mention. You will, therefore, direct the utmost Care and Attention to be used to prevent those that are well from taking the Infection, and for this End, that they may be kept separate, and apart from those that have the Disorder. Every Precaution will not be more than necessary, to prevent the fatal Consequences, that will attend their bringing and spreading it at this Time, and I trust, that nothing in your Power to prevent it will be wanting. Such of the Men who are down with it, and those you may suspect have received the Infection, you will put under a proper Officer or Officers, to whom you will give Orders, to proceed with them to this Place, as early as possible after they are well and clear of the Infection. The Company or such Part of the Train of Artillery as are there must remain, in Case they should be wanted.

I request that you will have an accurate and exact Return made of all the military and other Stores belonging to the Continent, that I may be enabled to transmit it to the Board of War, and Ordinance, agreeable to their Order.

You will charge the Commissary or Conductor with the Care of them, and that he will remain and guard them in a safe and secure Manner. He must be active and vigilant in his

Duty, that nothing may be lost or injured. I am, etc.

**To THE COMMITTEE OF ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Head Quarters, New York, July 14, 1776.

Gentn: Nothing can be more pleasing, than on all occasions, to see the People ready to fly to the protection of any part of the Country where there is any danger from the Enemy; but at this extreme busy Season, I cannot recommend your keeping the Regiment embodied. It would be well to notify them all to be ready at a Moments Warning, to Assemble at any place they may be call'd to. Every precaution ought to be taken to prevent the Men of War from getting any Supplies of fresh Provisions, or keeping up any intercourse or Correspondence with the disaffected Inhabitants. I shall be much obliged for timely Information of every Manœuvre of the Ships and Tenders up the River, and hope that every necessary Step will be taken, to prevent any of our Vessels falling into their hands. I am, etc.

**To COLONEL RUDOLPHUS RITZEMA**

Head Quarters, July 14, 1776.

Sir: At a Period so critical as the present, when our unnatural Enemies are in full View, and hourly expected to strike a Blow, which may be supposed in a great Measure to decide the Fate of America, I must confess, I am not a little surprised to find an Officer of your Rank in the Army soliciting Leave to resign his Commission, more especially considering the Predicament you are now in. I should rather hope, that as you are so conscious of your Innocence, you would urge an Inquiry into your Conduct, to convince the World, that the Complaints exhibited against you are totally groundless; and that the Malice of your worst Enemies cannot do the least Injury to your Reputation, which to a Soldier ought ever to be dearer than Life.

I don't know how far I can with Propriety countermand the Order for the Court of Inquiry, as it is already given out in General Orders: however I will think of it, and give you my Answer To-Morrow. I am.

## **To THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE**

Head Quarters, July 14, 1776.

Gentn.: The passage of the Enemy up the North River, is a point big with many Consequences to the Public Interest; one particularly occurs to me well deserving your attention, and to prevent which, I shall gladly give every assistance in my power, consistent with the Safety of the Army. I am informed, there are several passes on each side the River, upon which the Communication with Albany depends, of so commanding a Nature, that an inconsiderable Body of Men may defend them against the largest Numbers. It may be, that on

Board these Ships there may be Troops for this purpose, who expecting to be joined by the disaffected in that Quarter, or Confiding in their own Strength, may endeavour to seize those defiles in which case the intercourse between the two Armies, both by land and Water, will be wholly cut off; than which a greater Misfortune could hardly befall the Service and Army, I must intreat you, to take the measure into Consideration and if possible provide against an Evil so much to be apprehended. I should hope the Militia of those Counties, might be used on such an Emergency until further provision was made; I have also thought it very probable, those Ships may have carried up Arms and Ammunition, to be dealt out to those who may favor their Cause and cooperate with them at a prefix'd time. I would, to guard against this submit to your Consideration, the propriety of writing to the leading Men on our Side in these Counties, to be very vigilant in observing any movements of this kind, in order that so dangerous a Scheme may be nipped in the Bud. For that purpose to keep the utmost attention to the Conduct of the principle Tories in those parts; any attempts of intercourse with the Ships and all other Circumstances

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which may lead to a discovery of their Schemes and the Destruction of their Measures. I am Gentn. &c.

### **To MAJOR CHRISTOPHER FRENCH**

Head Quarters, New York, August 7, 1776.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the July, intimating your expectations of release on the 12th. of this month.

I have considered your Parole, advised with those whose Knowledge and experience gives weight to their Opinion, and otherwise endeavoured to inform myself how far your Construction of it is founded upon Justice, Reason or Usage; I do not find it warranted by either, My Duty therefore Obliges me to over rule your Claim as a matter of Right. As a matter of favor, Indulgence is not in my Power, even if your General Line of Conduct as a Prisoner had been unexceptionable.

I have therefore wrote to the Committee of Hartford, sent them a Copy of this Letter and hope you will, without Difficulty, conform to the Regulations already made with respect to Prisoners, by the General Congress.

It is probable a general Exchange of Prisoners will soon take place, it will then be a pleasing part of my Duty, to facilitate your return to your Friends and connections, as I assure you it is now a painful one to disappoint you, in an Expectation which you seem to have formed, in a full Persuasion of being right and in which

on mature Deliberation, I am so unhappy as totally to differ from you. I am Sir etc.

### **To TIMOTHY EDWARDS**

New York, August 7, 1776.

## Library of Congress

Sir: The inclosed Copy of a Resolution of Congress, entered into the 2d Inst., will discover to you their Sentiments, on the Subject of employing the Stockbridge Indians in the Service of the United States.

It is certain they differed some time ago, from the Commissioners of Indian affairs and put a Stop to their proceedings in this Instance;

But finding that our Enemy's are prosecuting the War, with unexampled Severity and Industry, and that these Indians are anxious to take a part in our favor; they have instructed me to employ in the Service of the American States, as many of them as I may think proper; I therefore take the Liberty to request your friendly exertions on this Occasion and that you will engage in the Service, as great a Number of them as you possibly can. I would wish you to give the Whole of them or any part that may choose it, the liberty of Joining either this Army, or that in the Northern Department under Genl. Schuyler. I do not think it will be proper, as they are desirous of becoming apart of the Army, to Oblige them to join, where they have not an Inclination to go; and therefore recommend that they should be indulged; in whatever way their fancy may lead, as to Joining either the one or the other Army, partially or wholly.

The Situation of our affairs, will readily suggest to you, the Necessity of dispatch; at the same time, that it will point out the expediency of engaging as many of them as you can. The business may be attended with a degree of trouble, which I could wish not to happen, but yet I am persuaded will be undertaken with alacrity. I am &c.

**To MAJOR CHRISTOPHER FRENCH**

Head Quarters, New York, August 8, 1776.

Sir: I was unwilling to determine hastily, upon your claim of a Release founded upon your Parole, and therefore delayed the acknowledgment of your favor of the 22d July, until I should fully inform myself. I had accordingly wrote you Yesterday, that I was so unhappy

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as to differ from you in the construction you had put upon it, but as there was reason to believe, a General Exchange of Prisoners might soon take place, I should chearfully facilitate your return to your Friends.

Last Night I received your favour of the 5th. August waving your Claim of a Release, which makes any farther Discussion of that matter unnecessary. Your other proposal, of being exchanged for Major Meigs<sup>69</sup> or Col: Allen, will meet with no Objection from me; should you write to General Howe on the Subject the Letter shall be chearfully forwarded and his Answer returned.

Should any Difficulty arise in the Exchange, I am doubtful, how far I should be authorized, without consulting the Congress, to grant you an Indulgence similar to that of Major Meigs, which I have been informed was allowed in consequence of his saving the Life of a British Officer, either nearly connected with, or much esteemed by General Carlton.

69. Maj. Return Jonathan Meigs, of the Second Connecticut Regiment.

However, you may assure yourself Sir, that both Duty and Inclination lead me to relieve the unfortunate and that I agree with you, that your long and early Captivity gives you a very just Claim to special Notice, and I shall be happy in furthering your Wishes, as far as my Station will admit. I am Sir, etc.